



BAKEMONOGATARI

7

OH!GREAT

ORIGINAL STORY:

NISIOISIN

ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN





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BAKEMONOGATARI

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THE STORY SO FAR

Suruga Kanbaru's love for Hitagi Senjogahara caused her to become jealous of Hitagi's boyfriend, Koyomi Araragi, driving her to make a wish to a "monkey's paw." Though it took a helping hand from Mèmè Oshino and Hitagi, Koyomi made Kanbaru's wish come half-true, successfully putting the situation to rest. Koyomi took a beating in the process, and though not fully recovered, he finds relief in the fact that his relationship with Suruga has been mended. However, not long after this, the sense of serenity that Koyomi was feeling is shattered when he visits a shrine with Suruga and witnesses a gruesome scene. On the way there, the two passed by the girl known as Nadeko Sengoku. Could this be her doing...?

Koyomi Araragi

A boy who was attacked by a vampire. After that attack, he was saved by Mèmè and is sometimes asked to perform tasks to pay off the large debt he owes as a result.



Nadeko Sengoku

Classmates with Tsukihi, Koyomi's youngest sister. Koyomi and Suruga happen to cross paths with her as they head through the mountains to a shrine.



Mèmè Oshino

An expert on aberrations who Koyomi relies on whenever he has a problem. He makes the ruins of a former cram school his home.



Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's classmate, who was once bewitched by a "cat." She denies it, but she's a class president among class presidents who knows everything.



Suruga Kanbaru

A girl who made a wish to a "monkey." Though the aberration ended up remaining in her left arm, Koyomi and Hitagi were able to work to make her wish come half-true.



Hitagi Senjogahara

A girl whose weight was once stolen by a "crab." Suruga has been her junior ever since middle school, and the two have now reconciled.



MAIN CHARACTERS



Chapter 4

Nadeko Snake

BOOK DESIGN

VEIA





Hm? Are you the type that only looks at a book's spine when shopping?



...putting them *there* when you show them to me?



Hane-kawa ...

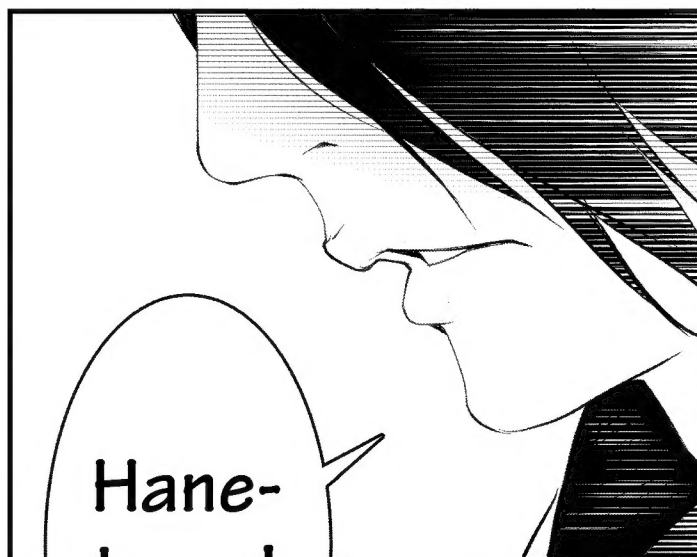
Why is it that you keep on taking the front covers of books and...



Okay.

This one?

BOING



Hane-kawa!

So...she really doesn't realize what she's doing...



Could I take a look at that book?





Seems like
her body is
unusually
efficient at
absorbing
energy.

BOOM

AAAY

The funny
thing is that
once we
ate lunch,
Kanbaru really
did feel better
again.

Kanbaru was revived.

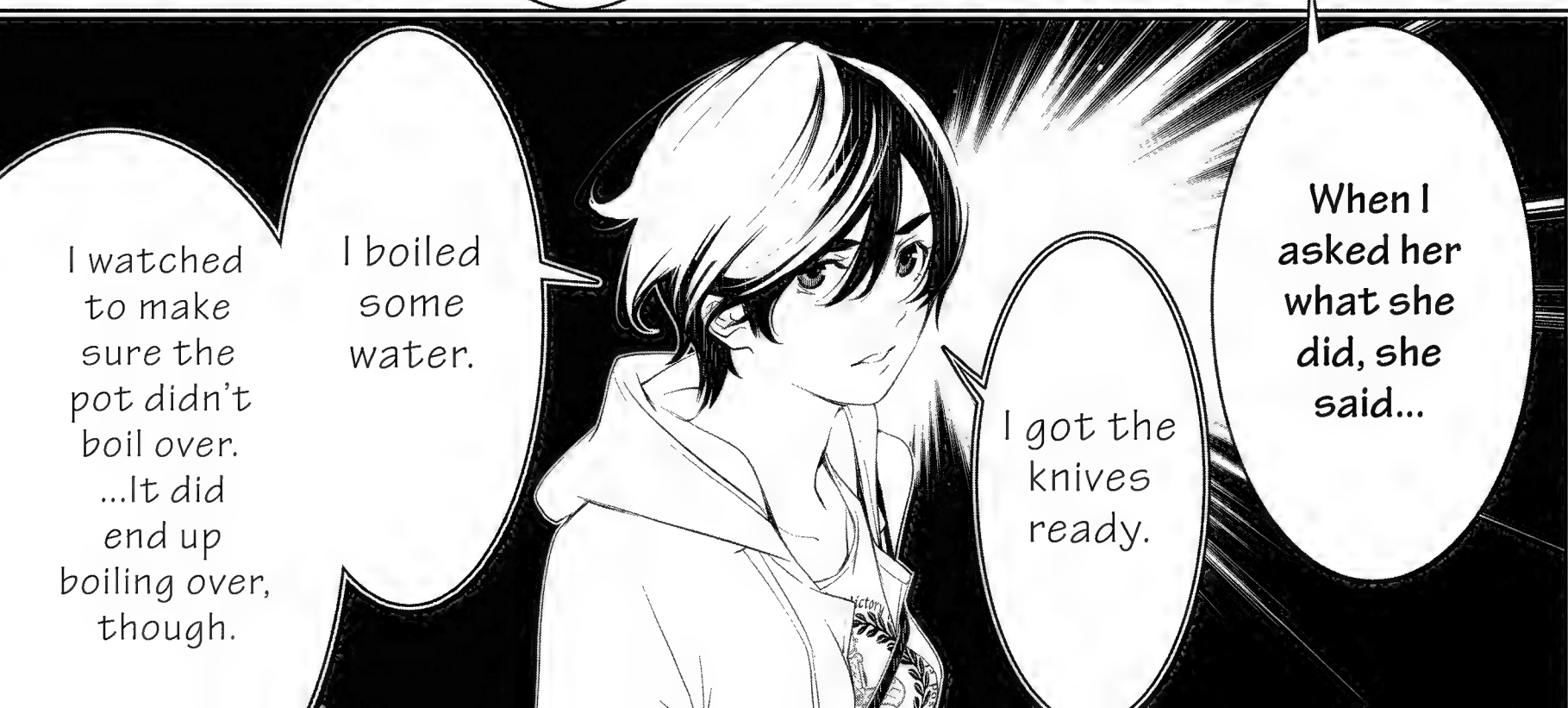


But it
actually
seemed
like it
was the
other way
around.

She said
she had
her
grandma
help her
out.



You know,
I was actually
surprised
at just how
tasty that
lunch was.



I watched
to make
sure the
pot didn't
boil over.
...It did
end up
boiling over,
though.

I boiled
some
water.

I got the
knives
ready.

When I
asked her
what she
did, she
said...





...
Yeah.

Ah.
Almost
forgot.

...You're
...right.



I didn't want
to talk to
Hanekawa...
about
aberrations.



Hanekawa
doesn't
know about
Kanbaru's
aberration.
I didn't even
tell her
about that.

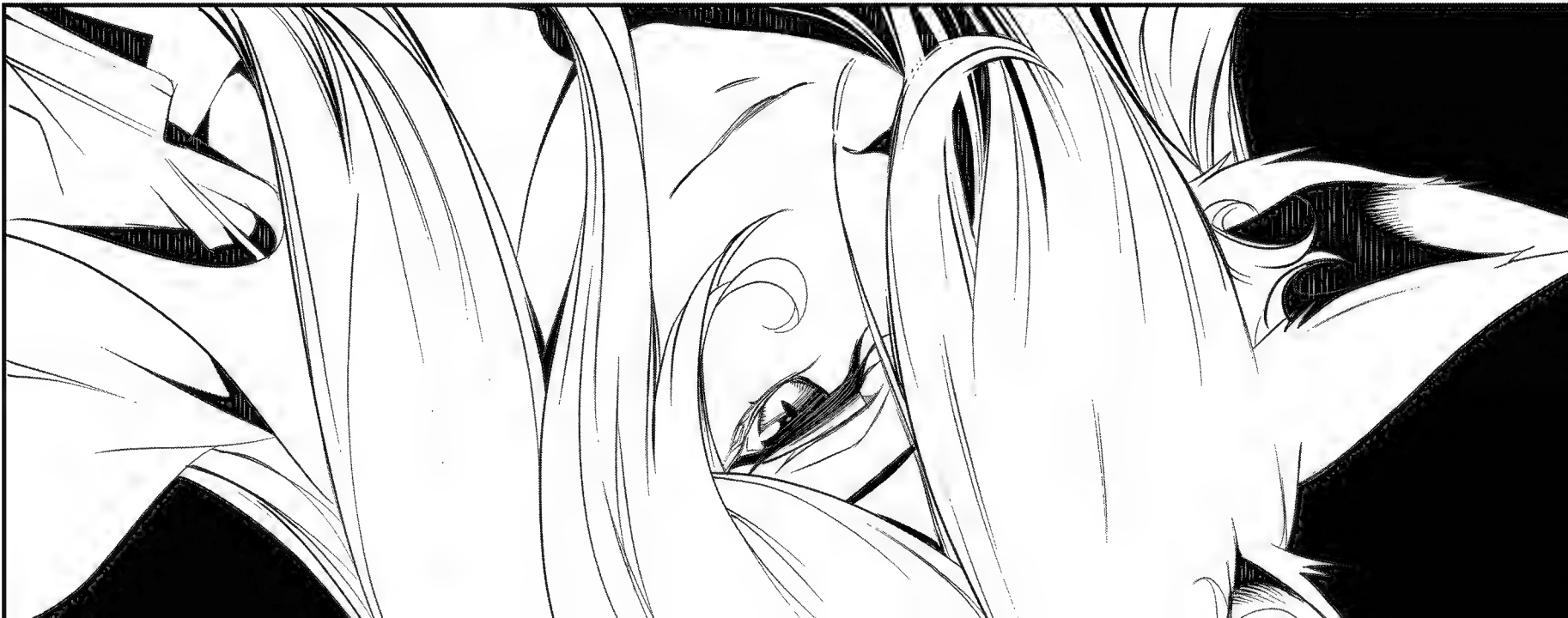
It was a
personal
issue for
Kanbaru—
which was,
of course,
part of the
reason why
I didn't say
anything.

But
even
more
than
that
...



More than
anyone
else,
I wanted Hane-
kawa...

...to be
as far
away as
possible
from
aberra-
tions.





And of all my debts, this might be the one that's most impossible for me to ever pay off.

I owe Hanekawa.



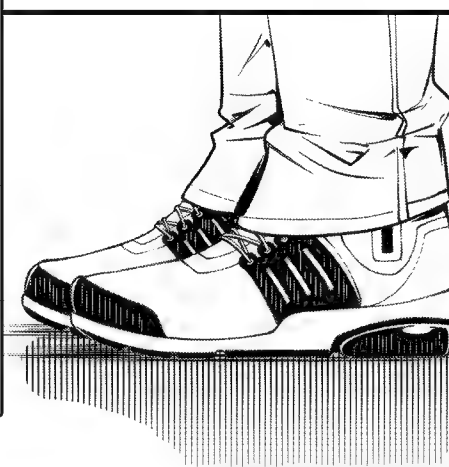
That must have been a handful, Araragi.

Well...



And you might say it's presumptuous of me...

I guess I wouldn't call that the reason why...



But I want to protect Hanekawa.
And I want to be even closer to her as I do.





No...

And was she also responsible for all those talismans nailed to the tree...?

Nadeko Sengoku... Did she kill those snakes?



If anything, it's more likely she'd jump up and run away at the sight of one, right...?

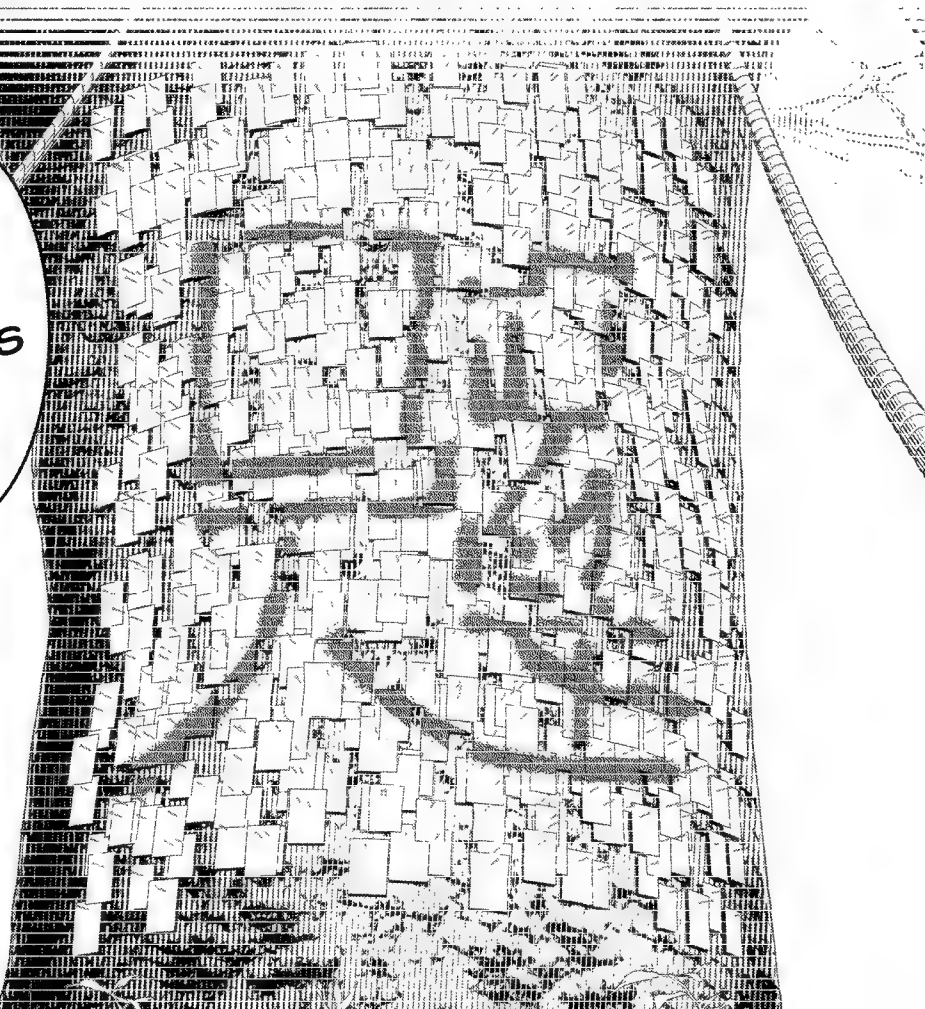
I just can't see a girl her age killing snakes.

Putting the talismans aside...

I guess ...

for now, I should let Oshino know about this...

I hope I'm just over-thinking things, but...





That's
what
I've been
saying.

What
happened
with
Kanbaru
must have
been a
handful.



—Are you
listening
to me,
Araragi?

Huh
?



O-Oh,
yeah...
She
suddenly
started
feeling bad,
and...

...



What
happened.
With.
Kanbaru.
Must have
been a
handful!

What.

That's.
Not.

I
mean.

...It seems like
I need to be
worrying about
myself...



You
shouldn't
be linking
arms
with her,
should
you?!

Araragi!
Do you not see
a problem with
being a little
too friendly
with your
girlfriend's
junior?!



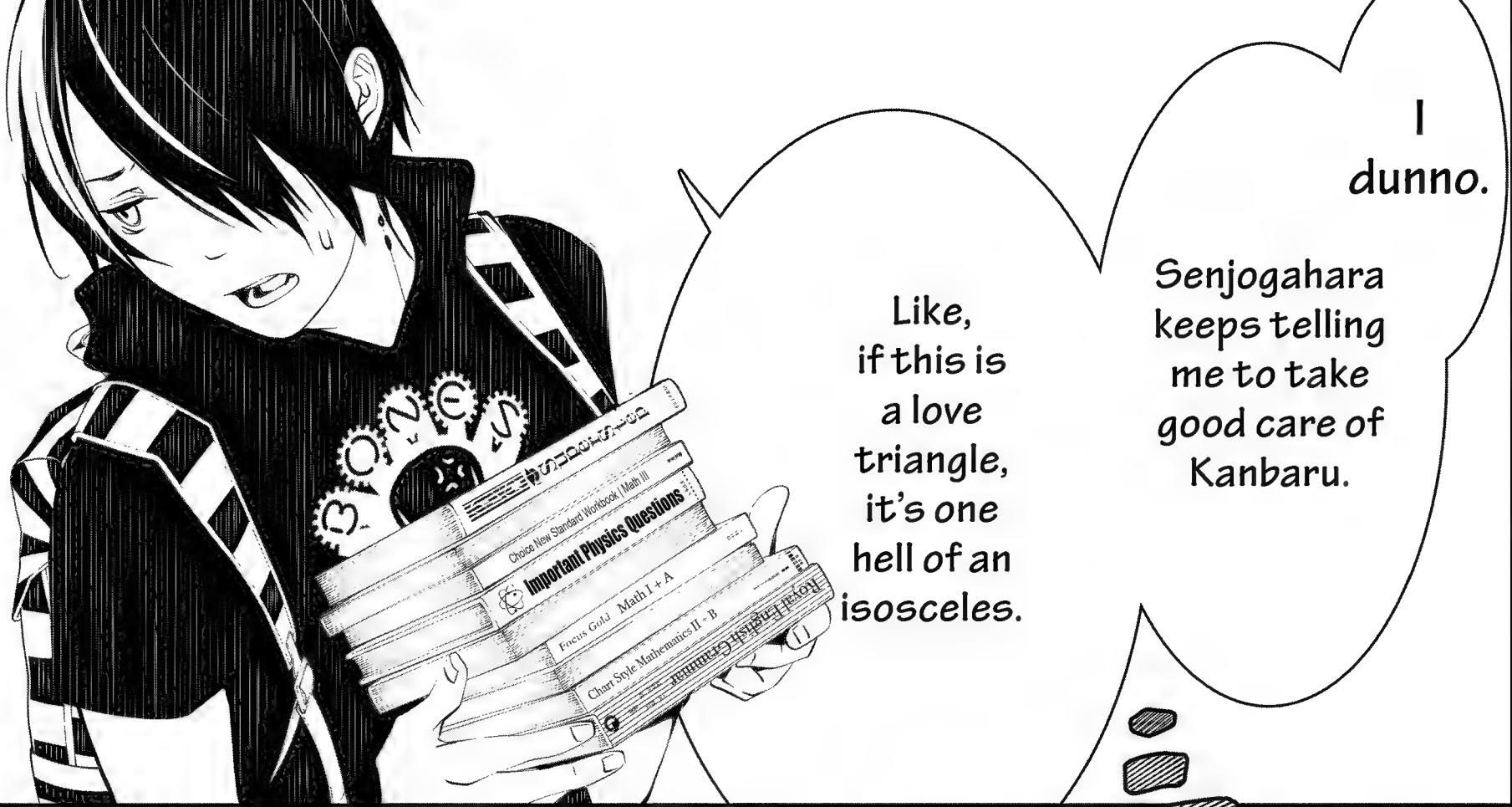
Hey!
Where're
you
going?

Do you
think that
passes as
an excuse?
I understand
being happy
to have a
cute little
junior...

What was
I supposed
to do?
She's a
friendly
girl.



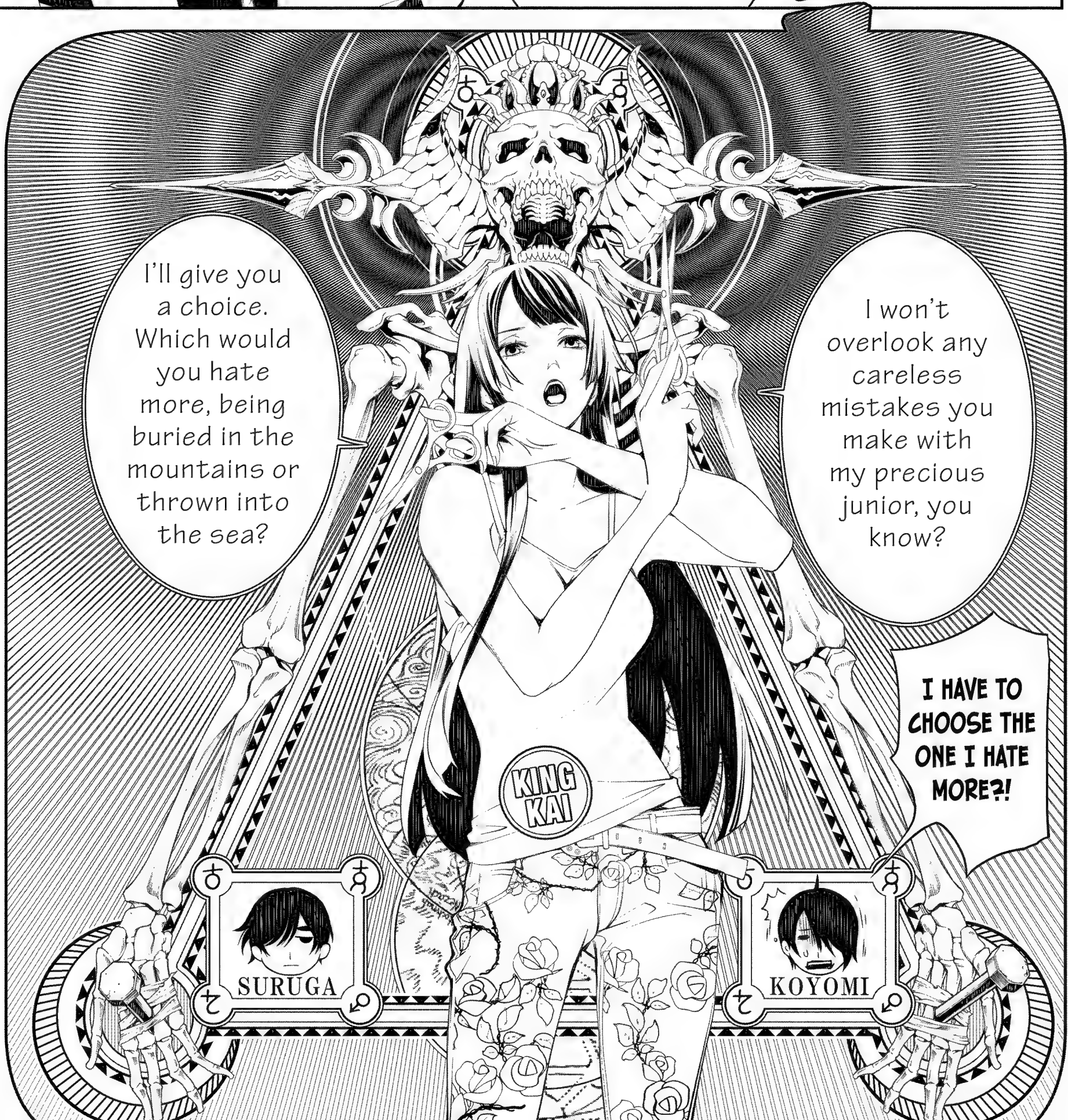




I
dunno.

Like,
if this is
a love
triangle,
it's one
hell of an
isosceles.

Senjogahara
keeps telling
me to take
good care of
Kanbaru.



I'll give you
a choice.
Which would
you hate
more, being
buried in the
mountains or
thrown into
the sea?

I won't
overlook any
careless
mistakes you
make with
my precious
junior, you
know?

I HAVE TO
CHOOSE THE
ONE I HATE
MORE?!



SURUGA



KOYOMI

Right.

...

The part
I don't get
here—is
Senjo-
gahara.

She's that
jealous a
woman,
and yet she
approves of
my relation-
ship with
Kanbaru—
or rather...

It's almost
like...she's
actively
trying to
make us
interact.

...I
wonder.
What
could
she...

...be
think-
ing?





Well ...

Okay.



...

Huh ?

YOU'RE REALLY CLOSE -!

Huh? What? What ?!

WH... WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HANE-KAWA?! UM-

What's going on?!

Maybe something like this.



Go ahead.



Huh?

Go...Go
ahead...?
Hane-
kawa?
Um...

Her
eyelids...
are
trembling...
And her
breasts...
Her
heart...



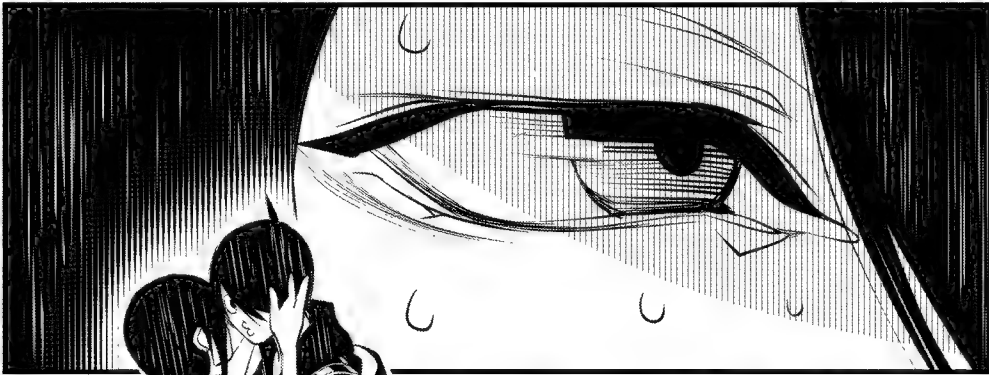
I have a
girlfriend,
and her
name is
Senjo-
gahara—



Hane-
kawa...
I-I
have...



Hane-
kawa!





...
Mgh!



—!!





BAKEMONOGATARI



*Kanji in background: Shrine visit
during the hours of the Ox (to lay a
curse on someone).



It's why she's trying to make you and Kanbaru get along, and why she's not objecting to the two of us being together after school like this.

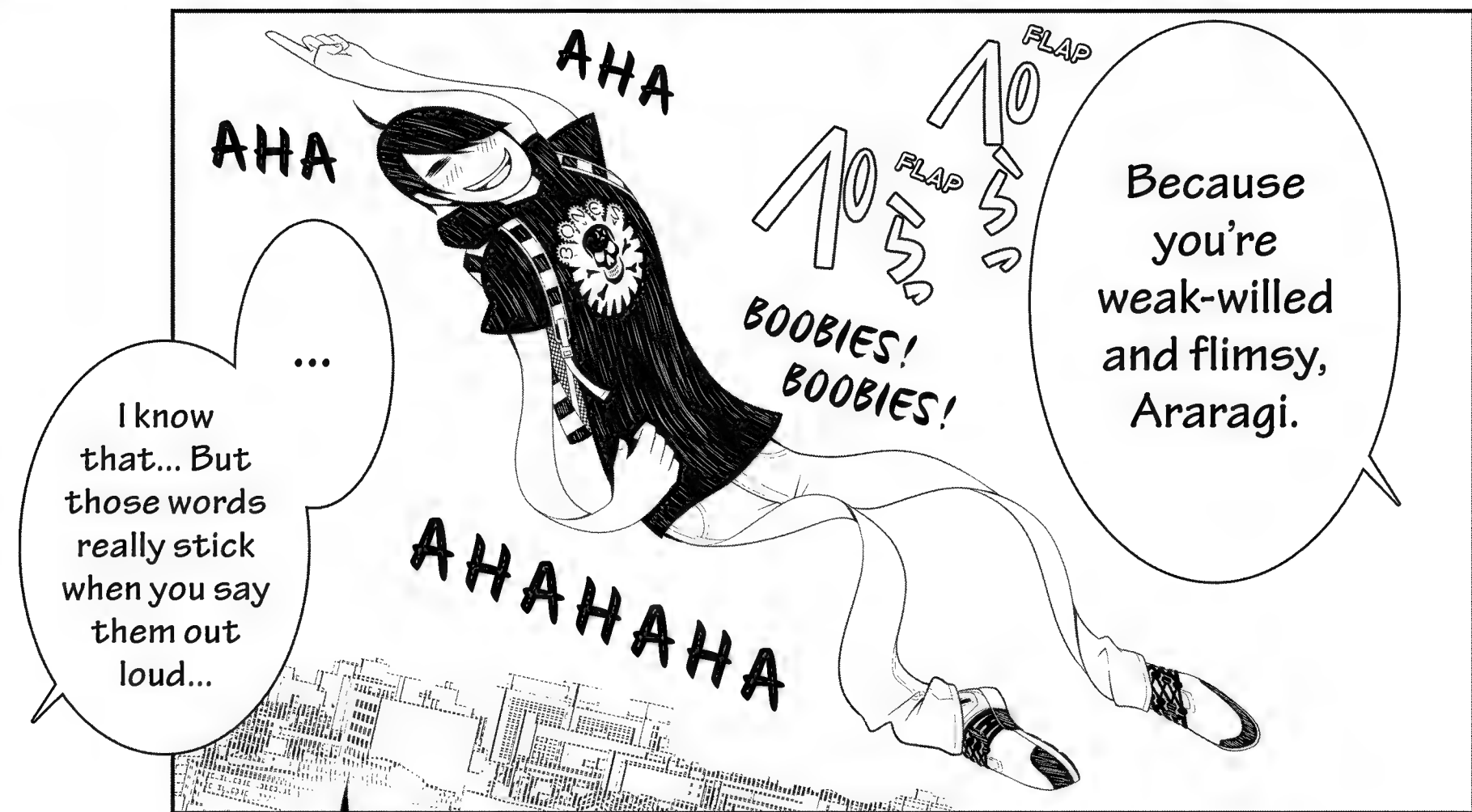


Is
that
what
you're
saying
?

So she's
testing
me...?

Uhh...
Umm...

...



AHA

AHA

BOOBIES!
BOOBIES!

FLAP

FLAP

Because
you're
weak-willed
and flimsy,
Araragi.

...
I know
that... But
those words
really stick
when you say
them out
loud...

AHAHAHA

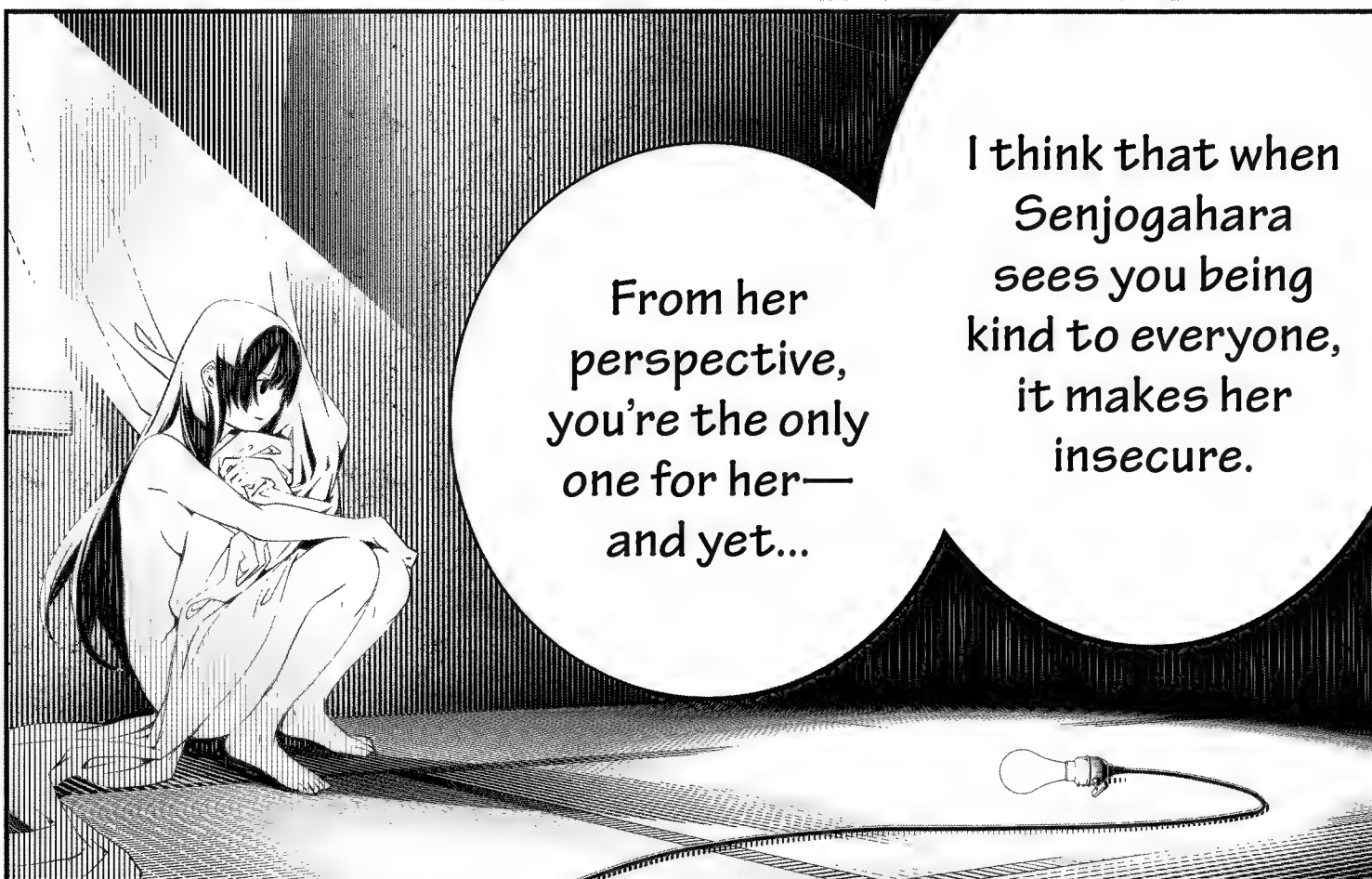


Ack.

I mean,
you were
only about a
second away,
weren't you?



It really is
irresponsible
to be kind to
everyone.



From her
perspective,
you're the only
one for her—
and yet...

I think that when
Senjogahara
sees you being
kind to everyone,
it makes her
insecure.



Huh?



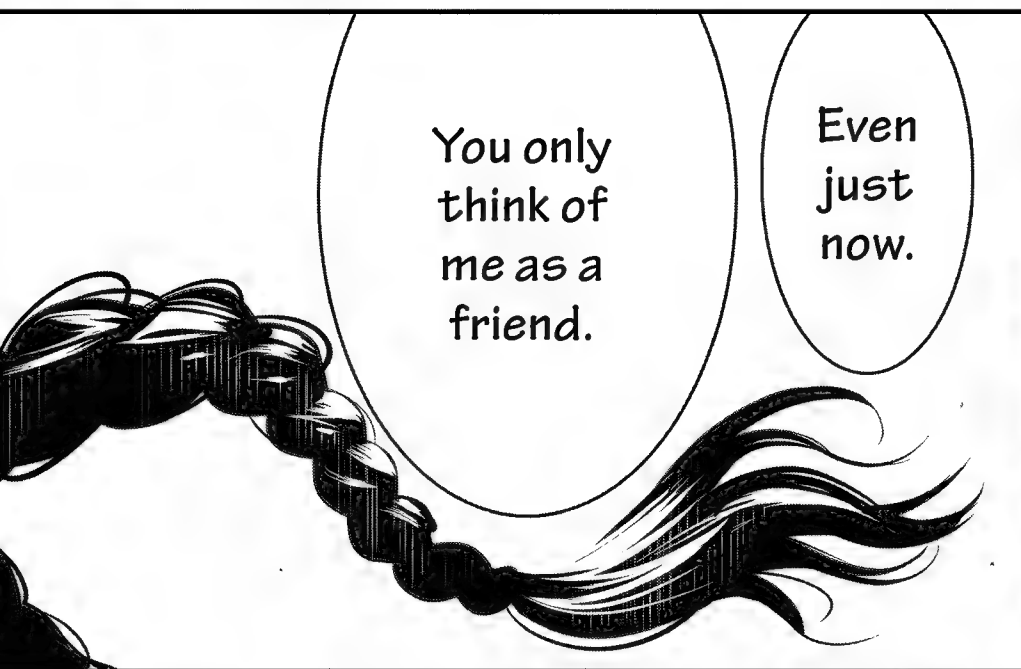
...it's like
you'd be fine
with anyone.

To take
it to an
extreme
...



And you
don't want
to hurt
people.

You're
quick to
go with
the flow.



You only
think of
me as a
friend.

Even
just
now.



Hunh
?! Mgh?



Y...
Yeah!!

That's
it!!

Er...

Well
...

Let's go
with that!
Hahaha!

Wow,
Hane-
kawa.
You
really
do see
through
it all!



But when I
came up to
you like *thiiiis*,
you felt like
it'd be rude if
you *didn't* do
something...

That's
what went
through
your mind,
right?



It's not going to just be Kanbaru... You're going to keep on meeting all kinds of girls.

I mean, from here on out, Araragi...



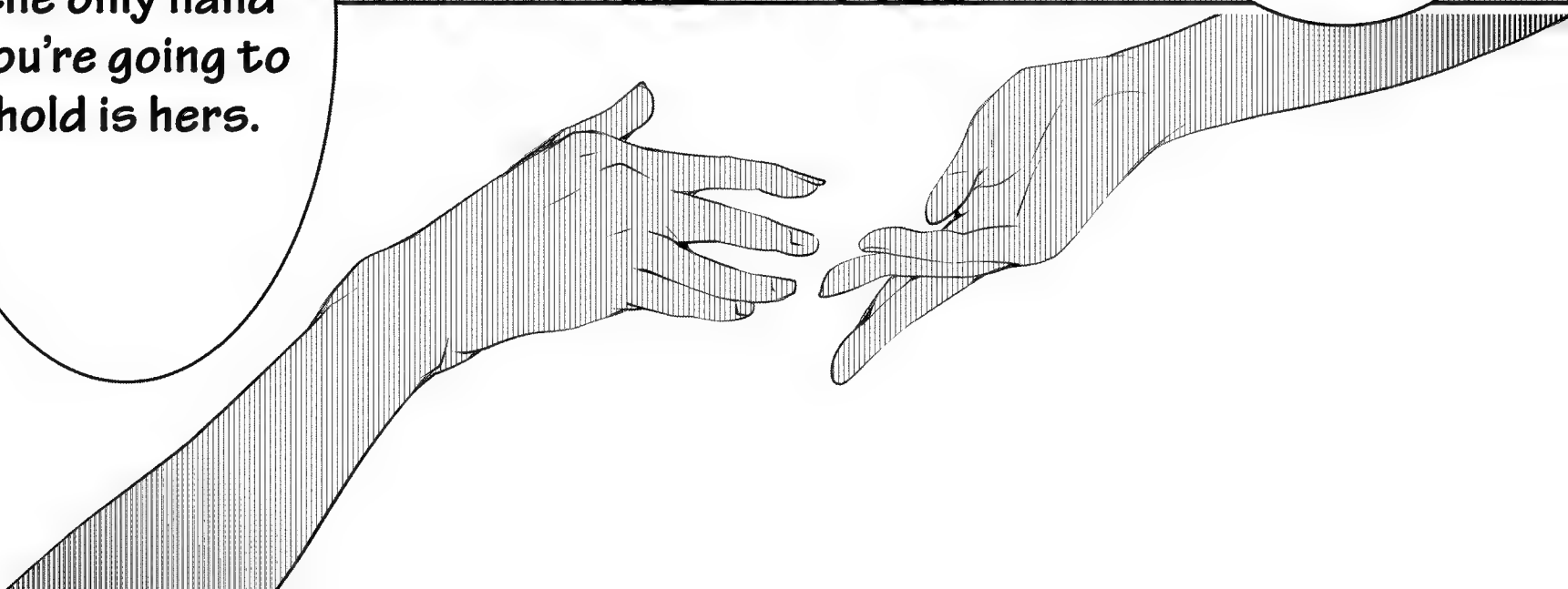
But aren't you being even ruder to Senjogahara by doing that?



She believes the only hand you're going to hold is hers.

Even with all those girls in your life...

But Senjogahara believes in you.





Maybe
that's
it.

She wants
to believe
that you're
going to
hold it...

Or
not.

Maybe
I'm
wrong.



Yerp.

**SO DON'T
YOU LET
YOUR HEART
WAVER OVER
A LITTLE
BIT OF
TEMP-
TATION,
OKAY?**

**I KNOW
YOU'VE BECOME
POPULAR WITH
GIRLS ALL
OF A SUDDEN,
BUT AREN'T YOU
LETTING THAT GET
TO YOUR HEAD?**



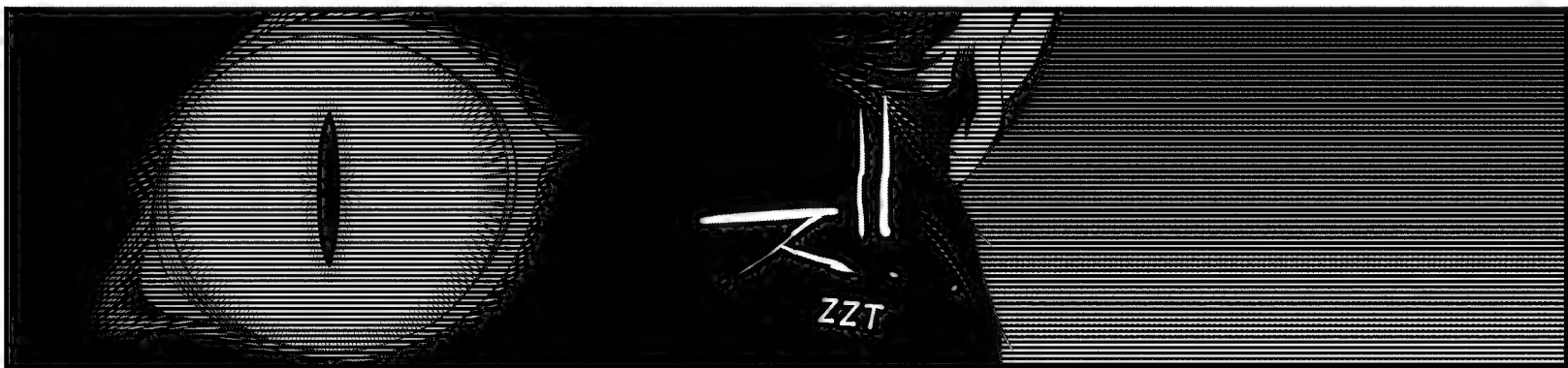
Hm?



MHM!

**JUST AS
LONG
AS YOU
UNDER-
STAND!!**

**THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR WISE
WORDS,
MISS
HANEKAWA!**





You know,
I actually got a
better score than
I expected on the
recent midterms...
It's almost like
I remembered how
to study.

Well, I really
just have
Senjogahara's
rigorous study
sessions to
thank.

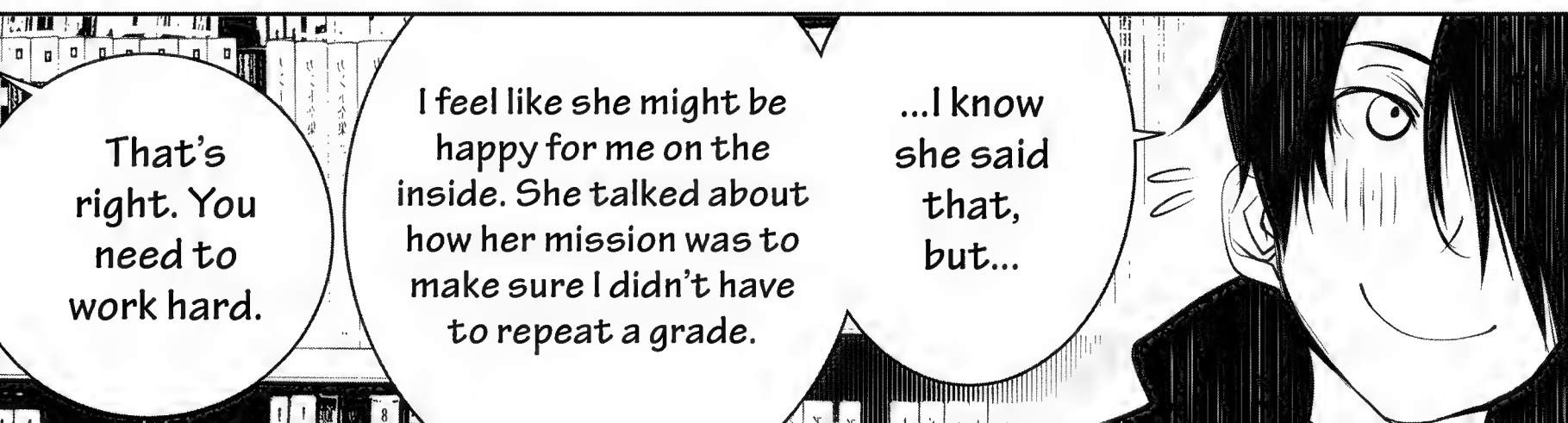


Couldn't you have
at least prepared
some kind of a
punchline for me?
Like doing all of
that studying but
somehow getting
an even lower
score than
usual?

Why would
I have to
come up with
a punchline
like that for
you?!

Ah...
You really
are no fun.

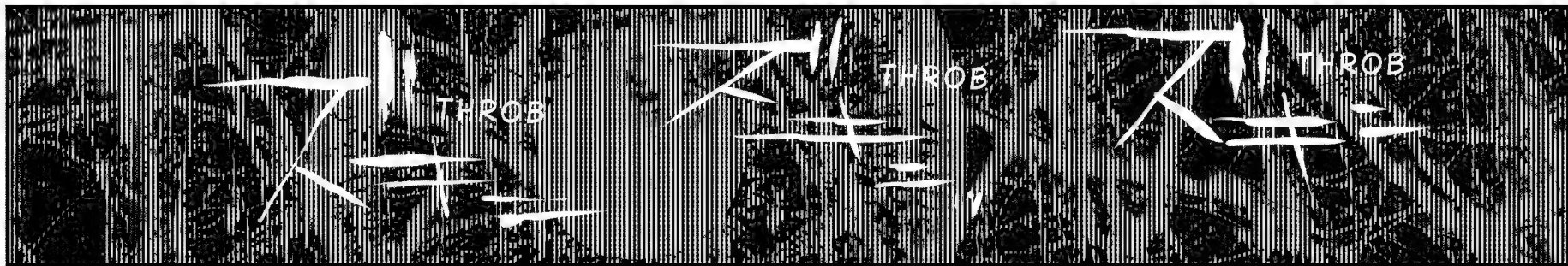
T
H
W
A
P

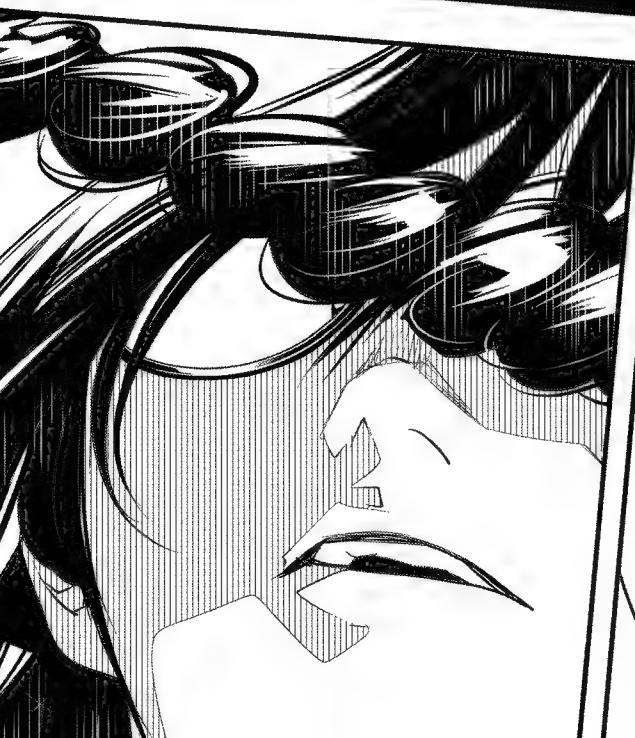


That's
right. You
need to
work hard.

I feel like she might be
happy for me on the
inside. She talked about
how her mission was to
make sure I didn't have
to repeat a grade.

...I know
she said
that,
but...





That
reminds me,
what school
are you
going to
again?



Oh.



That's
being a
woman for
you...



WHISPER



WHISPER

I guess she
couldn't find it
in her to get mad
now that the
conversation
finally turned
to her...



GRIN



WHAAA
?!

Wha
?

I'm not
going to
university.

You could easily get in on recommendation alone... In fact, I could see universities competing with each other to see who could draft you!

Wait, but...

All-Japan University Draft

Kyoto University

#1 Pick

Tsubasa Hanekawa
Naoetsu High

Why not?
Oh...
Financial reasons?

I thought I'd see the world after I graduate.

I'm going on a journey.

Um... Even I'm shocked by this, you know ...

The teachers would be shocked to hear about it.

Oh, but it's still a secret, okay?

A...A journeeeey ...?

...!



Great.
I was
hoping
...

...you would be
the first one
I told about
this, Araragi.



It's
this
head-
ache
...

It's a
little...
rough.



All
right.

I'm
heading
back
home.

Huh?



Huh...? Oh!
Then let me
walk you
back home.

A
head-
ache.



...Oh.

R...
Right.
...
Sorry...



It's
been hap-
pening
a lot
lately
...

It's
fine.



No. Not
my home.



Hey,
thanks
for today,
Hanekawa.

Oh...
Okay.

You
should
look at
some of
the other
study
guides.

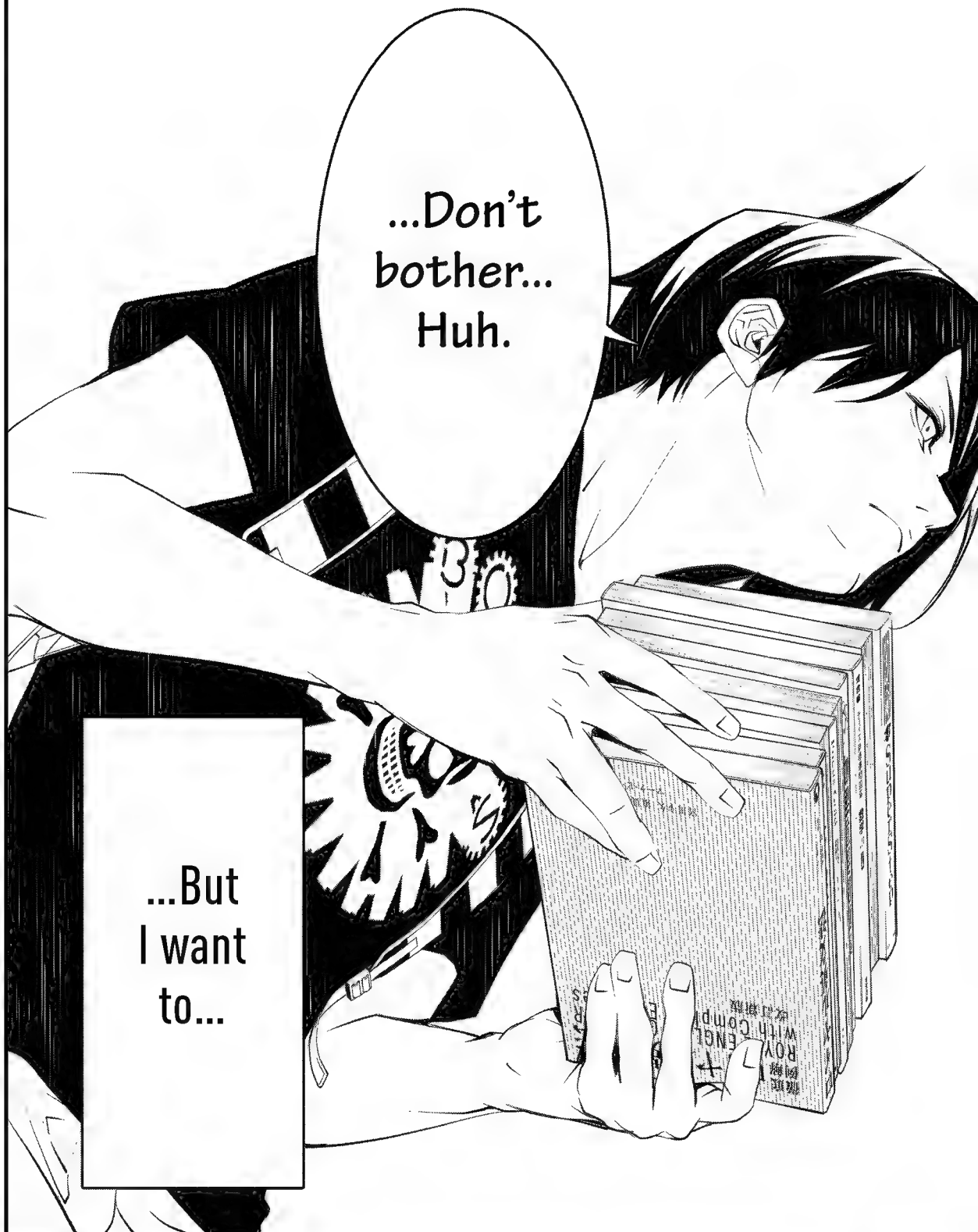
Bye-
bye.

Don't
bother.



Thank
you
very
much
!

十"
WHRRR
...

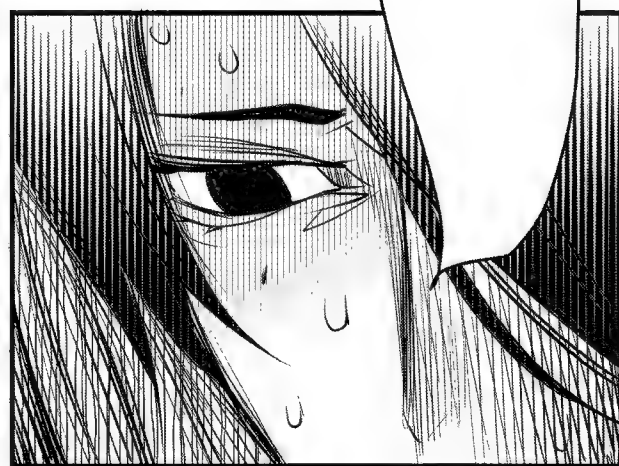
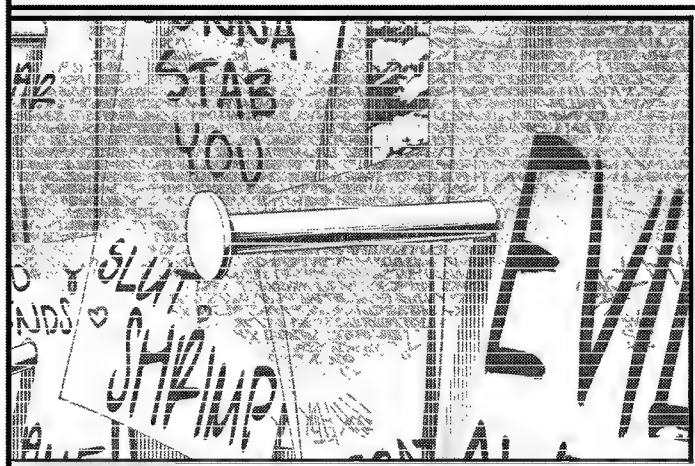








It's as
straight-
forward
as it
gets!



...Almost
too
much
so.

ILLUSTRATED GUIDE
*Forbidden
Tomes of the
World*
Seiman Doman
Translation supervision: Haruko Abe



She's still in the store, right ...?

Crap...
Nadeko Sen-
goku...

Oh, wait ...



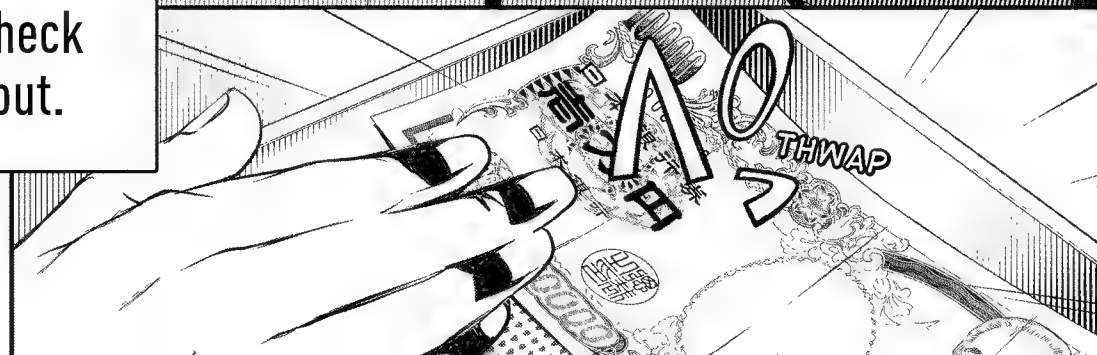
I see.
That's why
Sengoku
was just
reading it in
the aisle...

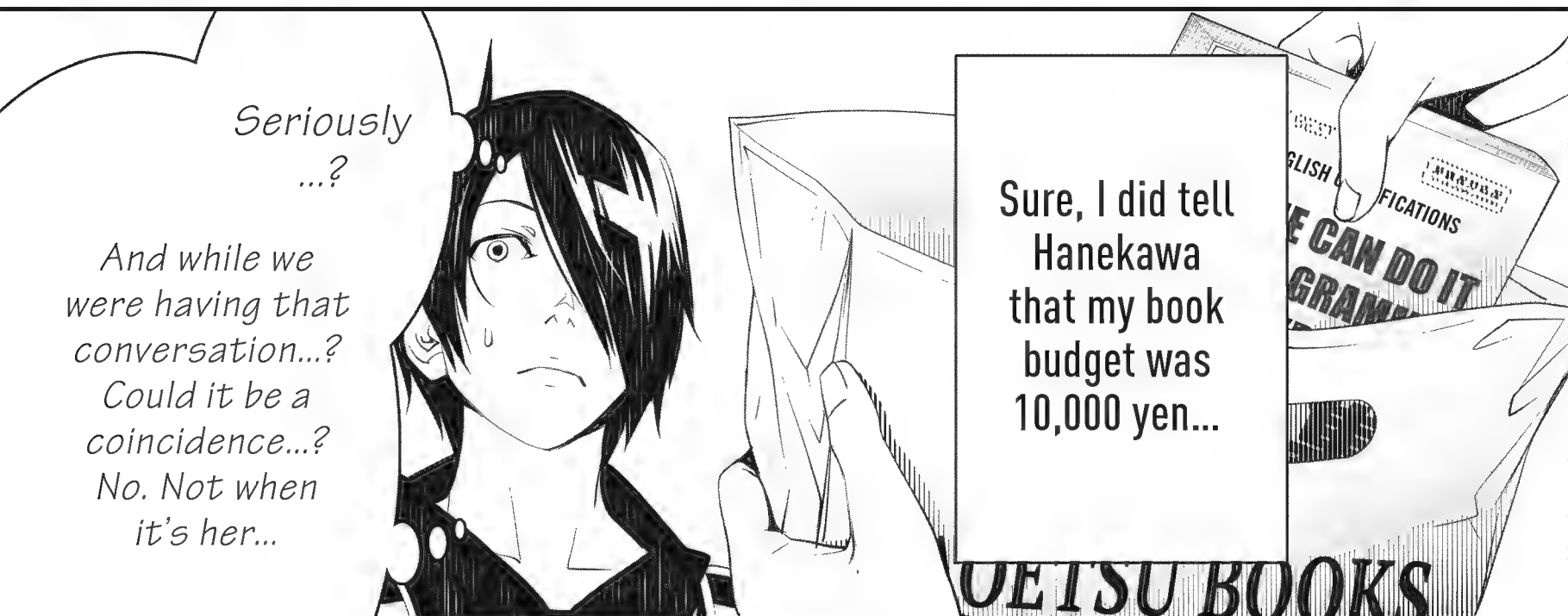
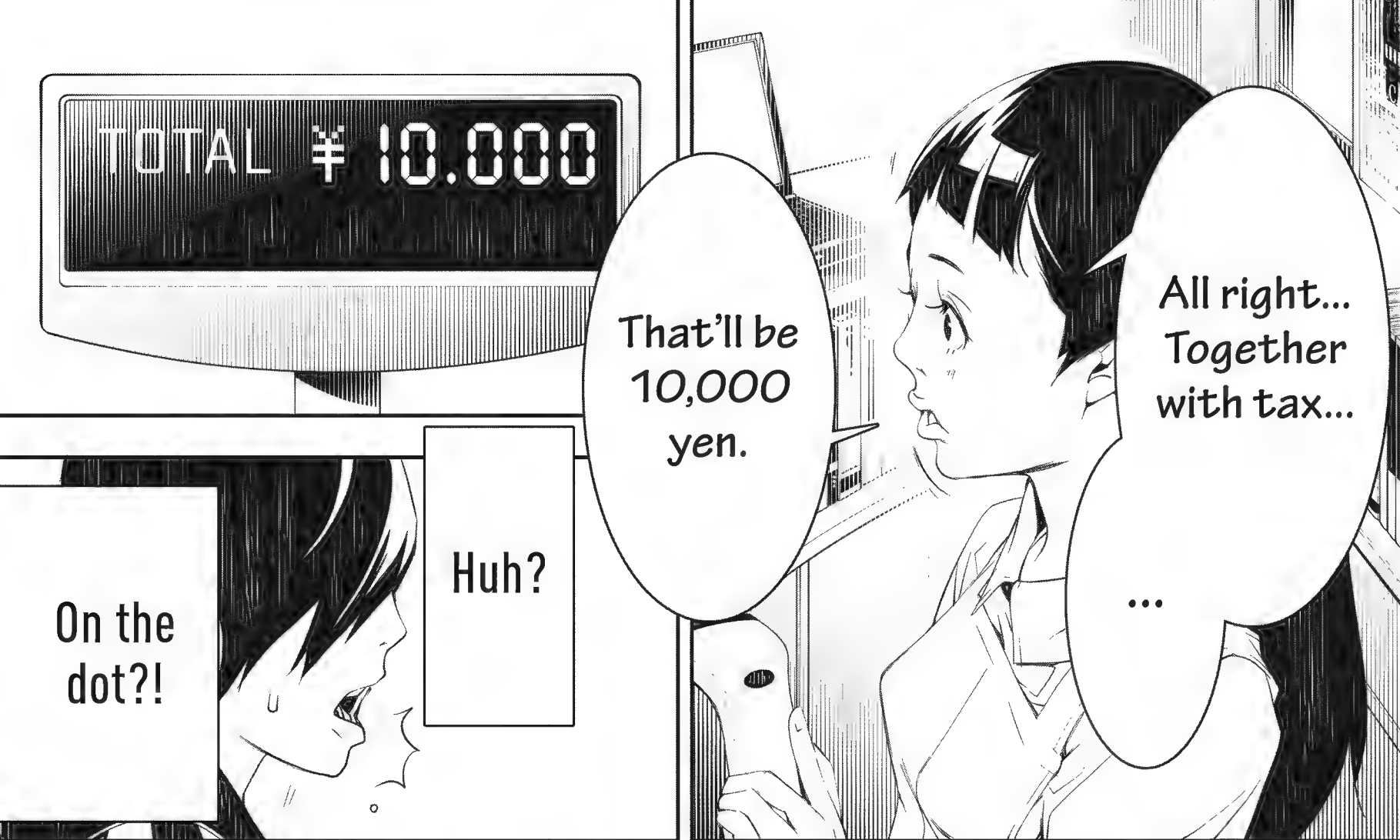
That price !



Excuse
me.
I'll take
these.

In any
case,
I should
go ahead
and
check
out.









This is
Suruga
Kanbaru.



No
human
can do
that.

Liar!

My
special
move is
double
jumping.



Heheh.
Whether I have
time or not, I'll go
anywhere you ask
me to. I'll be right
there if you need
me, even if
I have to jump
into a fire to
get to you.



Kanbaru,
if you're
available,
there was
something
I wanted you
to help me
with.

What are
you doing
right
now?

GSHHINK



What
is it?
You can
tell me.

Well...
You
see...

Umm...
Well.

Where
are you
now, and
what're
you
doing?
Depend-
ing on
that...

Well,
there's
no
need
for
that.

I still
feel a
little
guilty
about
yester-
day.

NPC
24H
時間貸 300円/30分
100円/60分
24時間最大 1600円
19:00 ~ 00:00 最大 500円
日本一キック株式会社 初台P



I'M AT HOME
READING DIRTY
BOOKS AND
INDULGING
IN DIRTY
FANTASIES.



...I shouldn't
have pressed
so much.



New
releases
came out
today,
you see.

So
including
the ones
I couldn't
buy since
we were in
the middle
of tests,
I got around
twenty.

And while
these might
be dirty
books, it's all
boys' love.

OH,
SHUT
UP!

Oh, but
don't
get me
wrong.

You
aren't
some
pestering
sexual
harasser
or anything,
my senior
Araragi.
Nope, not
at all.





No,
really!
Shut
up!!

Tsk, tsk, tsk.
You ought
to know
that I love
every
pairing
under the
sun.



Sigh...
Not one
for paring
down your
selections,
huh...?



Thinking about
how you and
Mister Oshino
would work
together
doesn't
exactly count
as being busy.

I guess
I couldn't
argue if you
put it that
way.

...So
you're
saying
you're
not
busy?

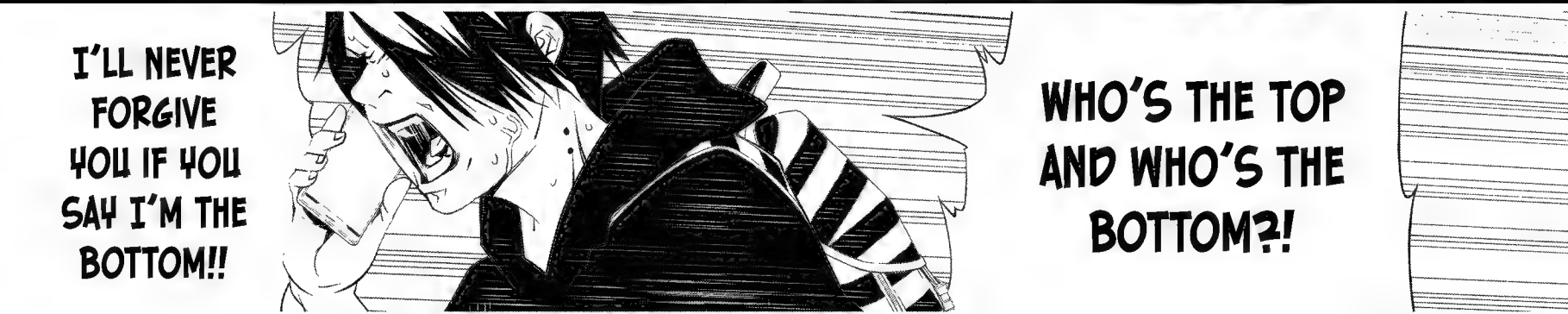
Hey!!
Hold on!!
That's what
you meant
by "dirty
fantasies"?!



Where
do you
need me
to go?

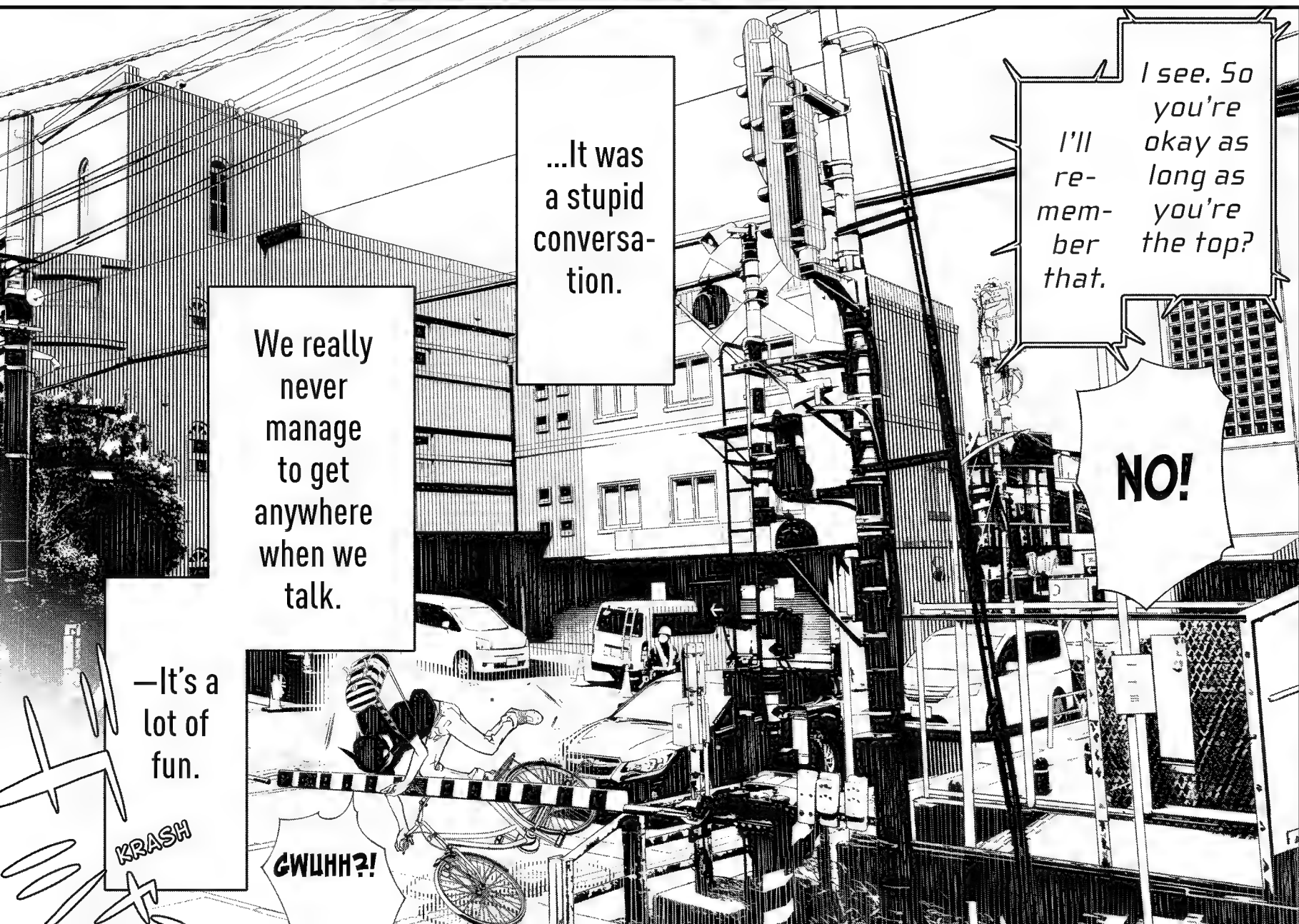
So?

*Don't change
the topic!
Wait, scratch
that, don't
put us back
on topic!*



**I'LL NEVER
FORGIVE
YOU IF YOU
SAID I'M THE
BOTTOM!!**

**WHO'S THE TOP
AND WHO'S THE
BOTTOM?!**



...It was
a stupid
conversa-
tion.

We really
never
manage
to get
anywhere
when we
talk.

*I see. So
you're
okay as
long as
you're
the top?
I'll re-
mem-
ber
that.*

NO!

—It's a
lot of
fun.

KRASH

GWUH?!



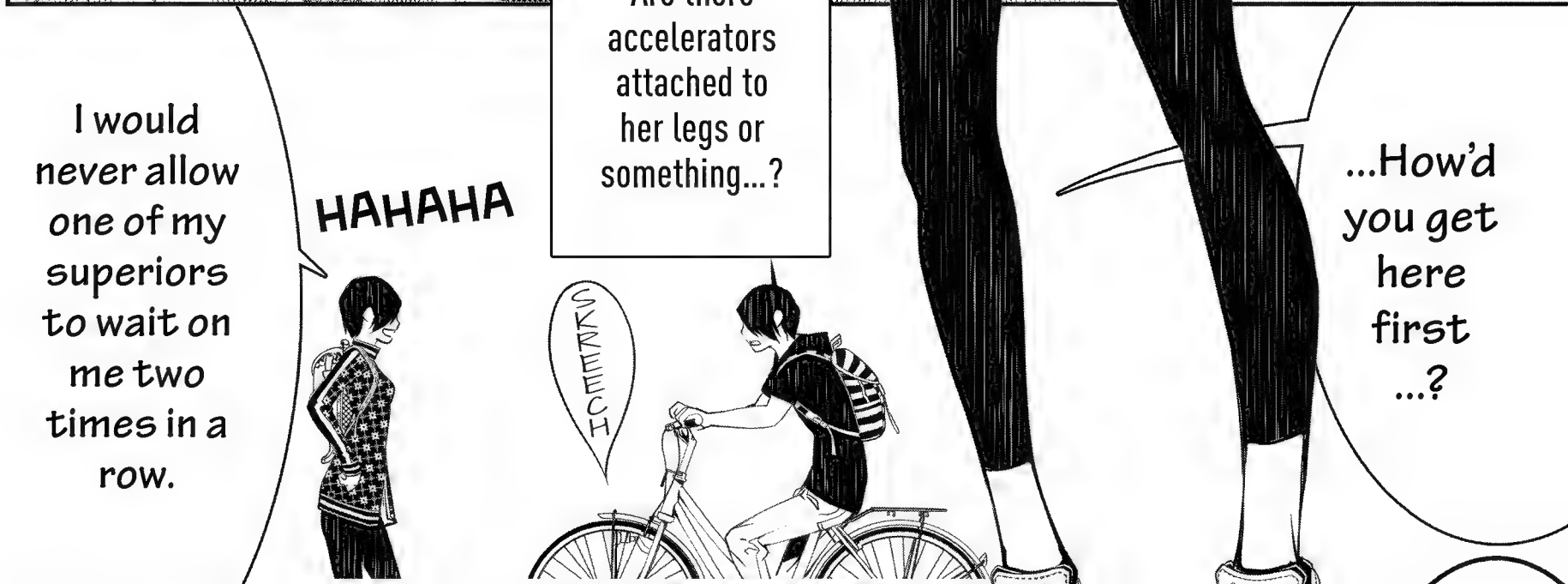
HEY.

Are there
accelerators
attached to
her legs or
something...?

I would
never allow
one of my
superiors
to wait on
me two
times in a
row.

HAHAHA

...How'd
you get
here
first
...?



SANTO

When
I think of
amphibians,
the
impression
I get isn't
of fast
runners...

Hm?
If it isn't
human, what
does that
make it?
Amphibian?

Your
speed
doesn't
even
seem
human.





Oh,
shut
up.

IF YOU THINK
OF ME IN
THAT WAY,
I WILL GLADLY
CALL
MYSELF
AMPHIBIAN!

IT'S NOT A
MATTER OF
IMPRES-
SION!



NOW HURRY!
PLEASE CALL ME
YOUR "LOWLY,
FILTHY PET"!!



Senjogahara
turned me
down, too...

...Hrmph.
Why won't
anyone call
me that...?

EVEN SHE
DIDN'T
WANT TO?!

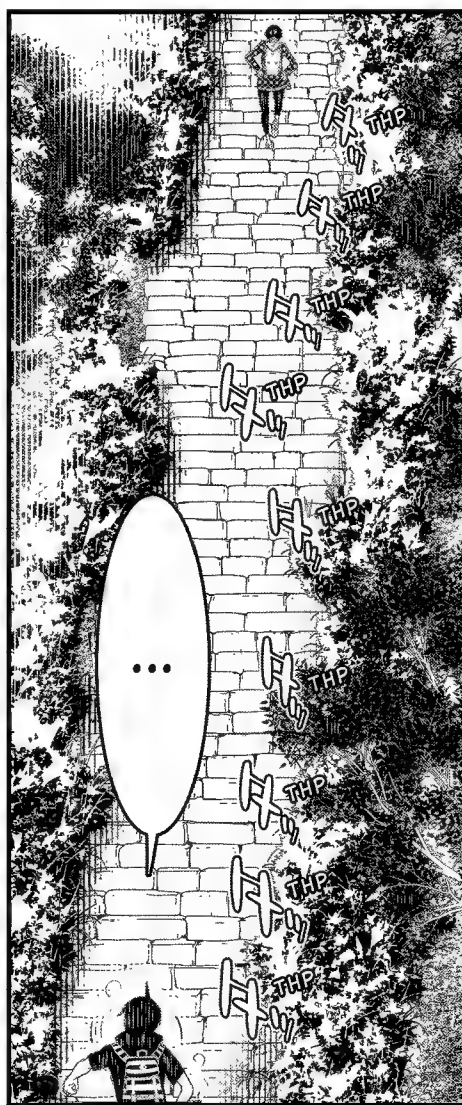


We're
in a
hurry.

Kan-
baru.

Sorry to say
this after you
ran here, but
we're going
to keep on
running.

Wha
?!





Excuse
me.



Uh—

Wha
?!



I thought
I told you
before—
there's no
reason to be
surprised.

Hm?

This arm is
powerful
enough to
even shove you
down onto a
bed.

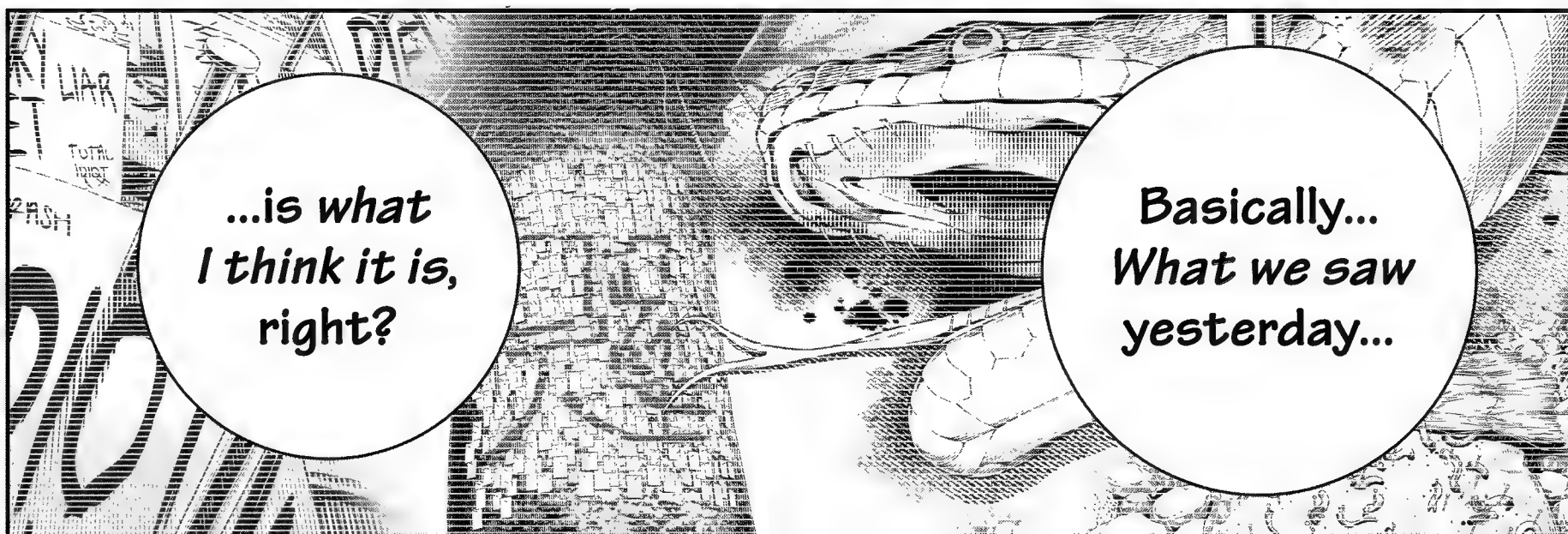
...You mean
powerful enough
to carry me like
a bride over the
threshold!!

By
the
way
...

**LET ME
DOWN!
RIGHT
NOW!!**

It's too bad I'll
no longer be
able to touch
your butt in
broad daylight
like this, but...

According
to Mister
Oshino, this
arm should
heal by the
time I'm
twenty.



...is what
I think it is,
right?

Basically...
What we saw
yesterday...



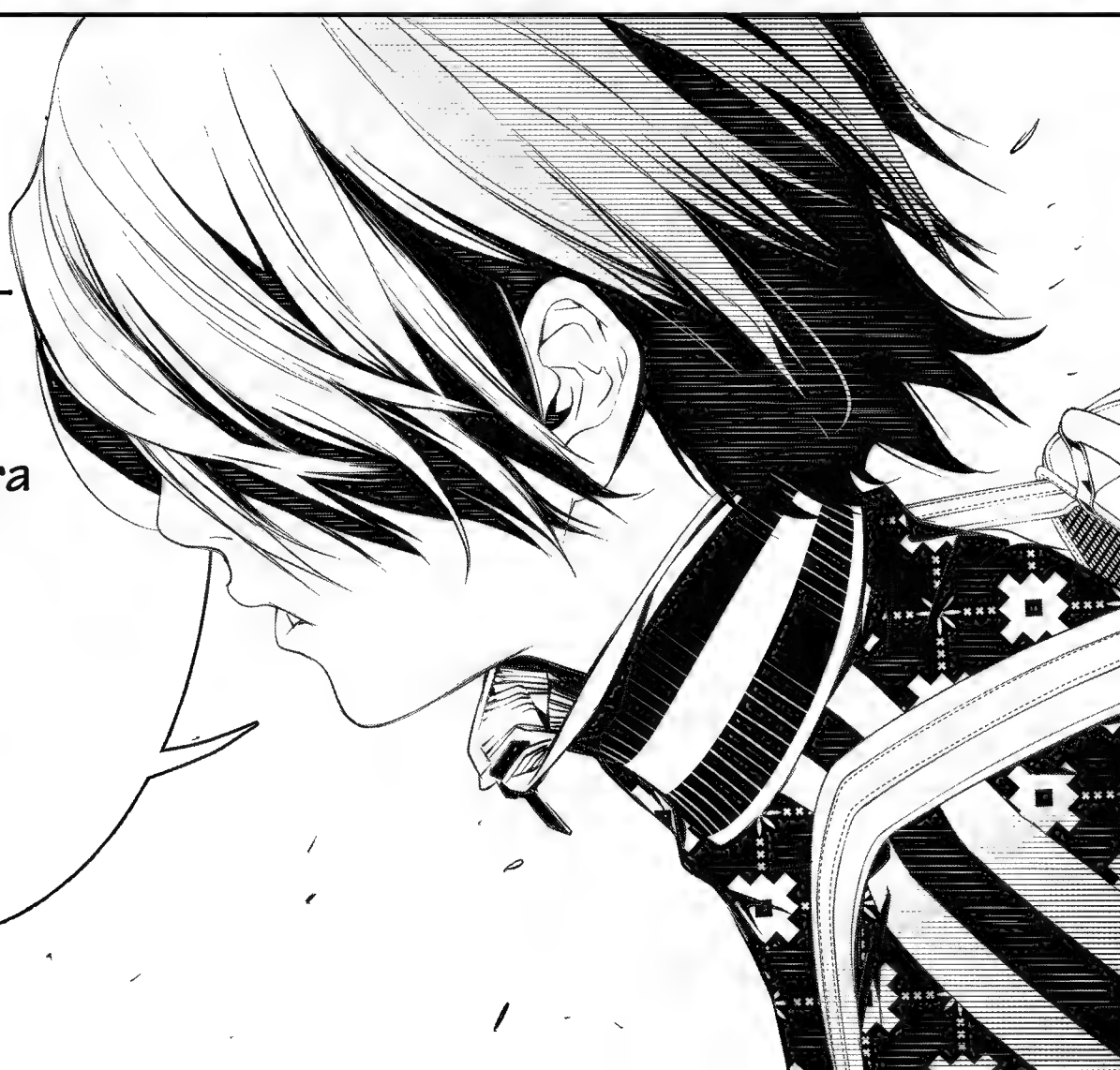
...Ah,
jeez.

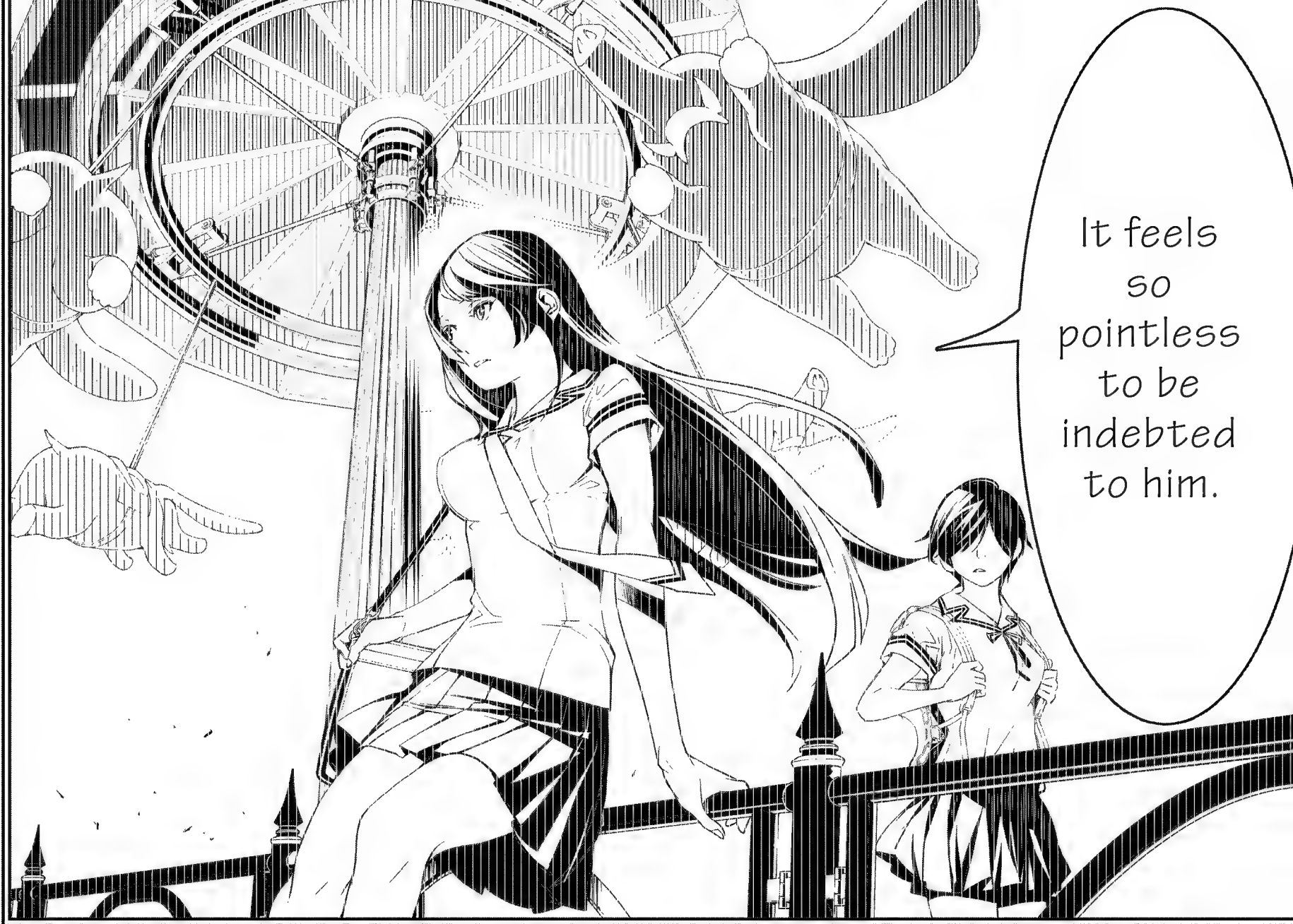
Sorry that
I dragged
you into
all of this,
Kanbaru...

No.
...It's not
that.

I thought
I'd learned
that well
enough...
but I get a
different
impression
now that
I see it in
person.

You're
kind to
everyone—
that's
what
Senjogahara
said, and
it seems
like it's
true.





It feels
so
pointless
to be
indebted
to him.



I'm just
complaining,
that's all.

Sorry. I was
talking to
myself. No,
I'm talking
out of turn.

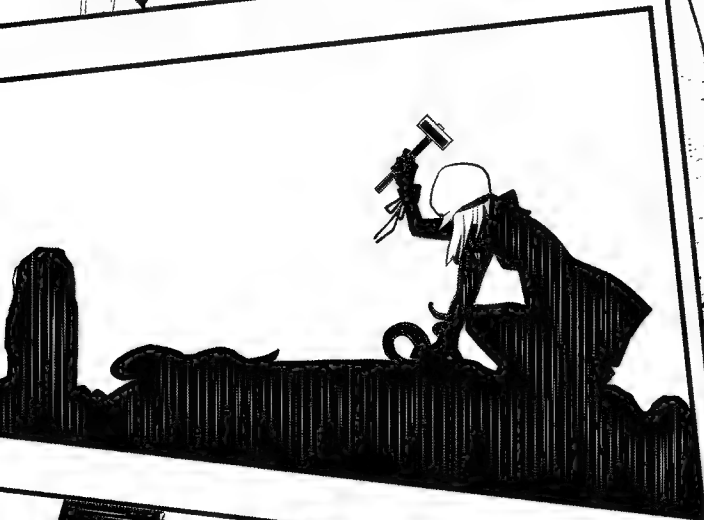


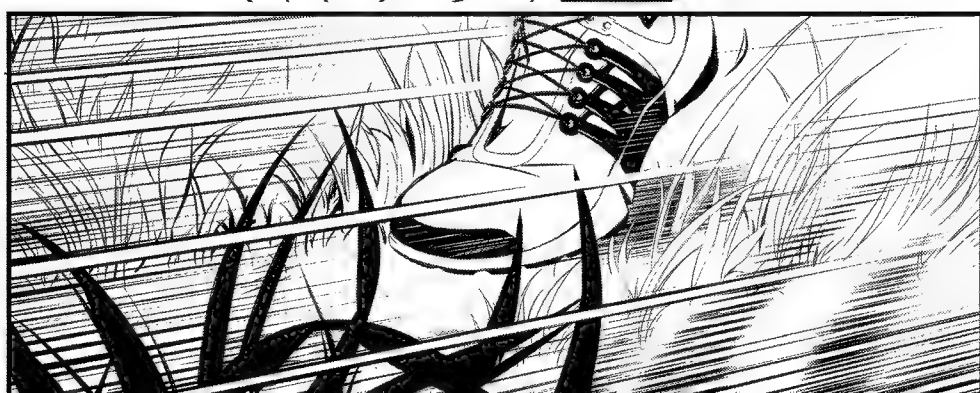
...



If we don't
hurry, this
girl might
finish her
business.

We're
picking up
the pace,
okay?

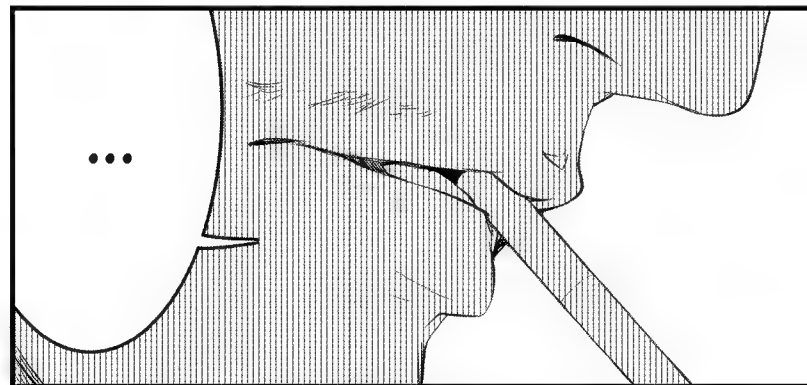


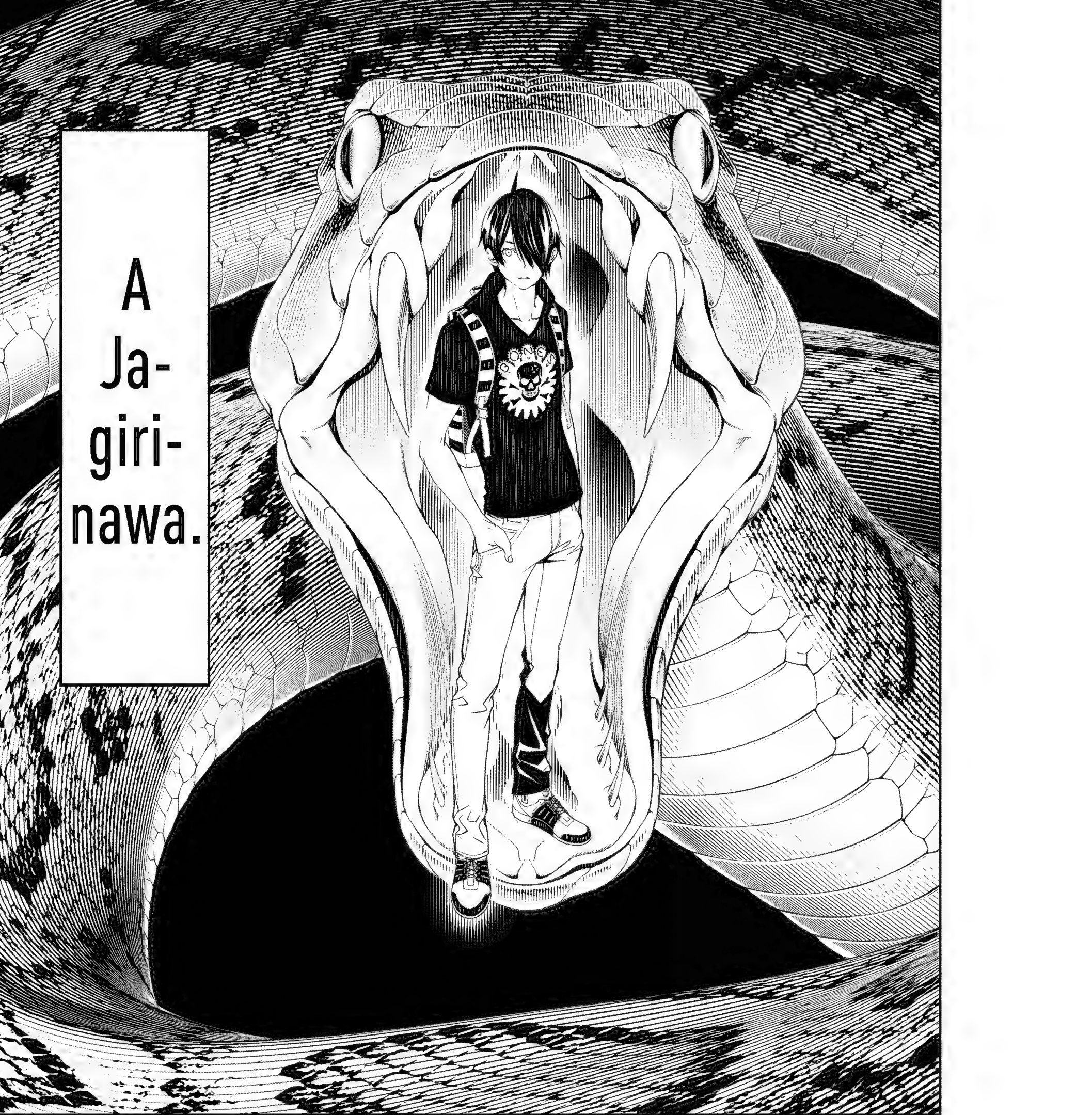


She...
remem-
bered
me...









A
Ja-
giri-
nawa.

Snake: The general term for reptiles in Class Reptilia, Order Squamata, Suborder Serpentes. Noted for their long, thin, cylindrical bodies covered in scales. They have hundreds of vertebrae and are able to squirm about freely.



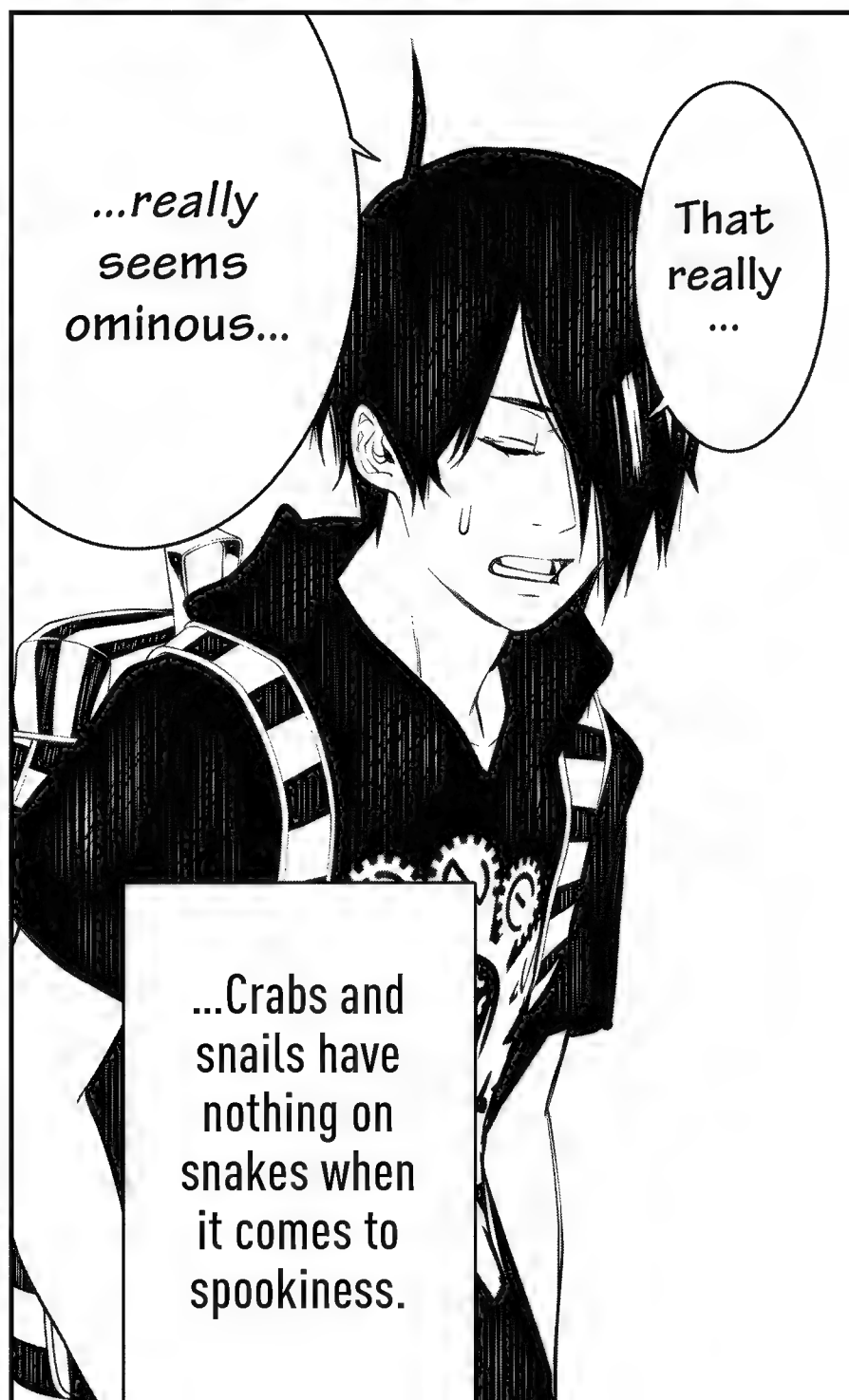
I can state that for a fact.

It's a snake.



Because you're not wrong to say that.

Well, it's all right to have that impression, Araragi.



...really seems ominous...

That really ...

...Crabs and snails have nothing on snakes when it comes to spookiness.



Hebi-
nawa.

Ja-
nawa.

Jakiri.

Hebi-
kiri-
nawa.

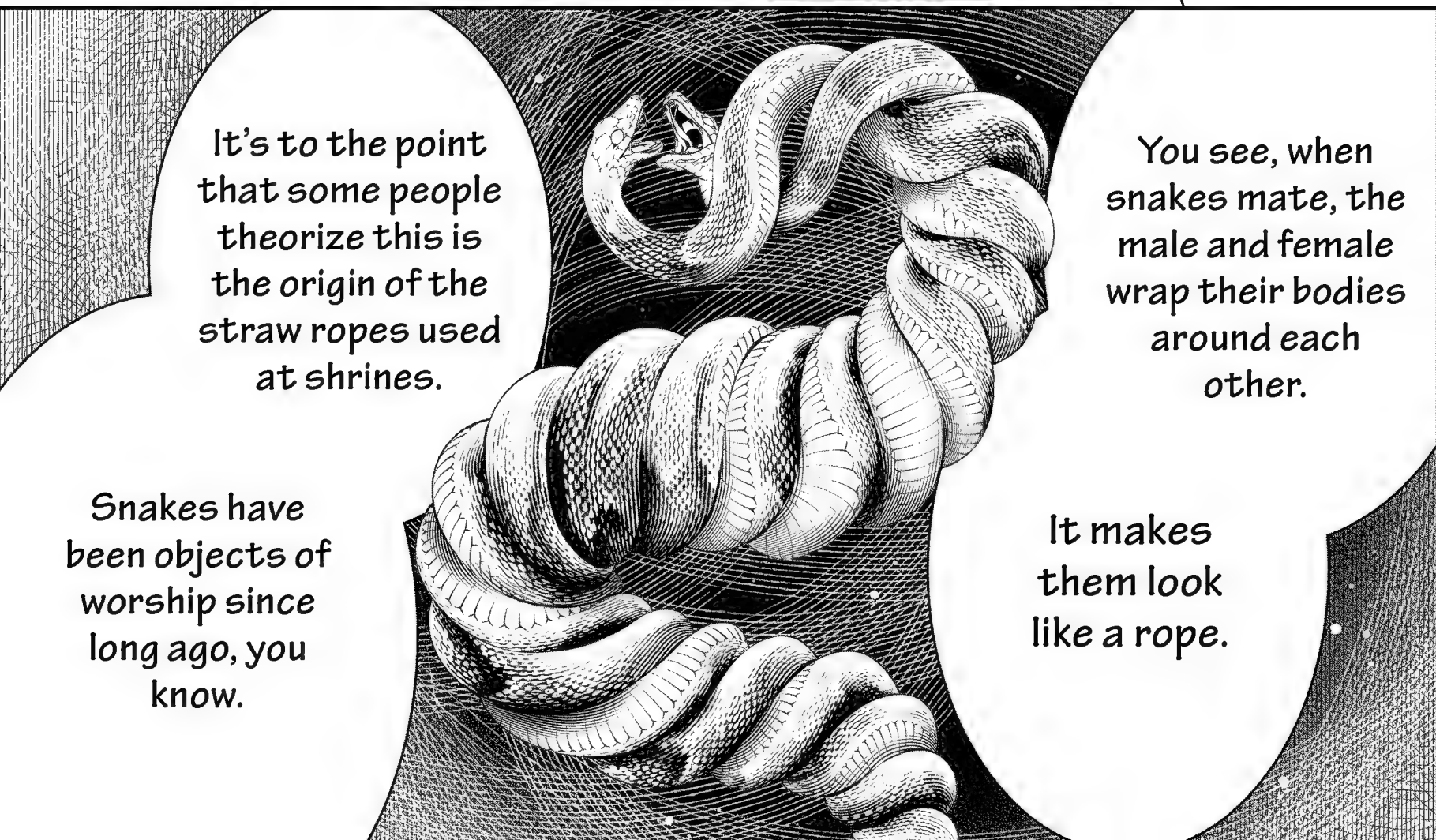
Though
some
regions just
straight-up
call it a
kuchi-nawa.



Good
question.

But why
would you use
a name that
comes from
the words
“mouth-rope”
?

I get that
you can call
a snake
that...

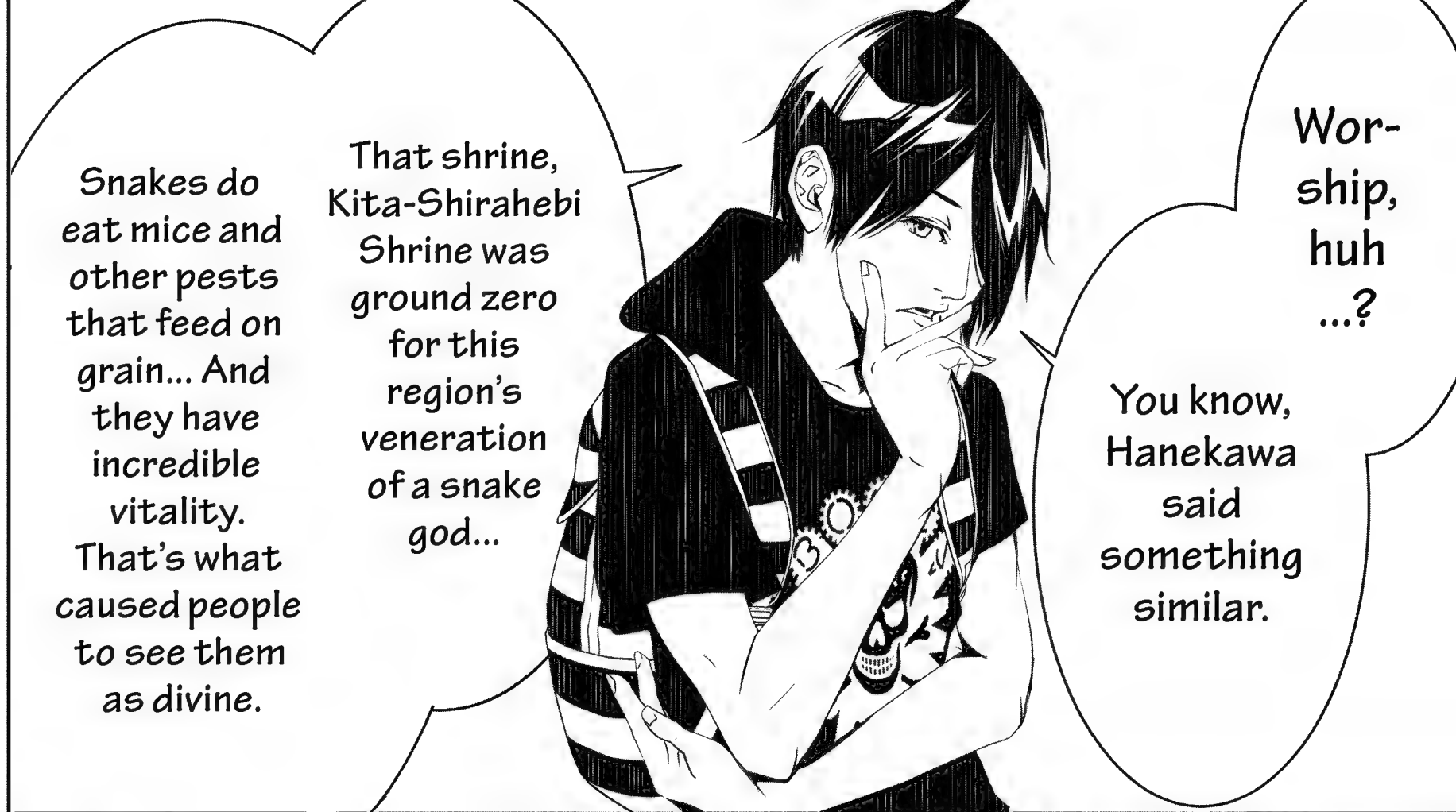


It's to the point
that some people
theorize this is
the origin of the
straw ropes used
at shrines.

Snakes have
been objects of
worship since
long ago, you
know.

You see, when
snakes mate, the
male and female
wrap their bodies
around each
other.

It makes
them look
like a rope.



Snakes do eat mice and other pests that feed on grain... And they have incredible vitality. That's what caused people to see them as divine.

That shrine, Kita-Shirahebi Shrine was ground zero for this region's veneration of a snake god...

Worship, huh...?

You know, Hanekawa said something similar.



She already finished repaying you, remember ?!

You do manage to reel in trouble no matter where you go...



Did she now? Oh, maybe she did. Ha hah.



That's Missy Class President for you. And just when I wanted to keep that a secret from you.

Ha hah!

In that case, maybe I should've given the talisman job to her.

I once did everything I could to find one of those damned things, hoping to collect a reward.

Now that takes me back.

CRYPTID

Snakes just feel evil to me...

The only one I can think of that doesn't seem evil is maybe the *tsuchinoko**.

*A Japanese cryptid that is described as a snake-like creature whose body is short and wider than its head.

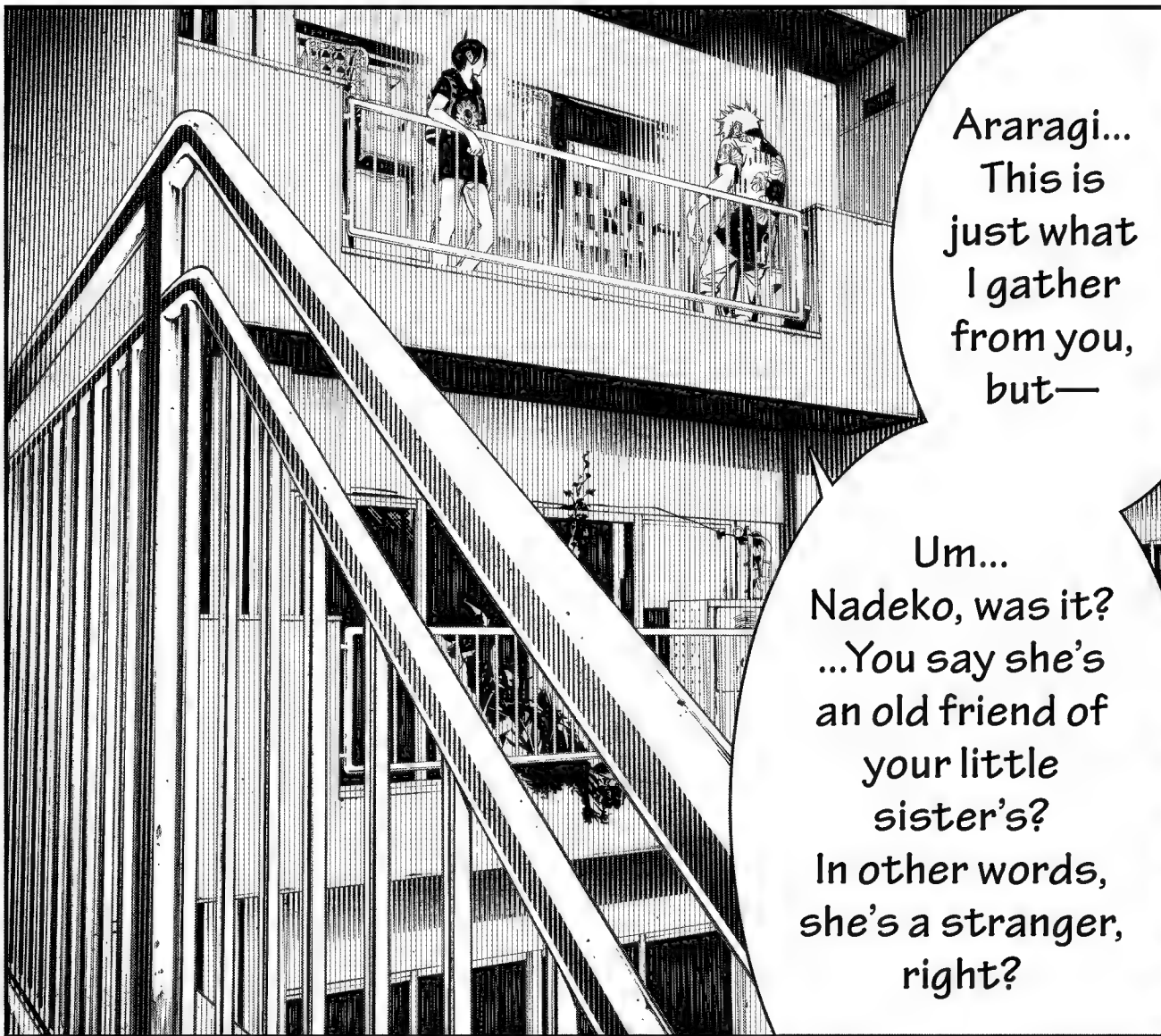
Snakes aren't your run-of-the-mill animal.

But yeah, we do have sayings like "a snake in the grass."

Never caught one, though.

Well ...

...What does that say about him as an expert...?
In more ways than one...



Araragi...
This is
just what
I gather
from you,
but—

Um...
Nadeko, was it?
...You say she's
an old friend of
your little
sister's?
In other words,
she's a stranger,
right?



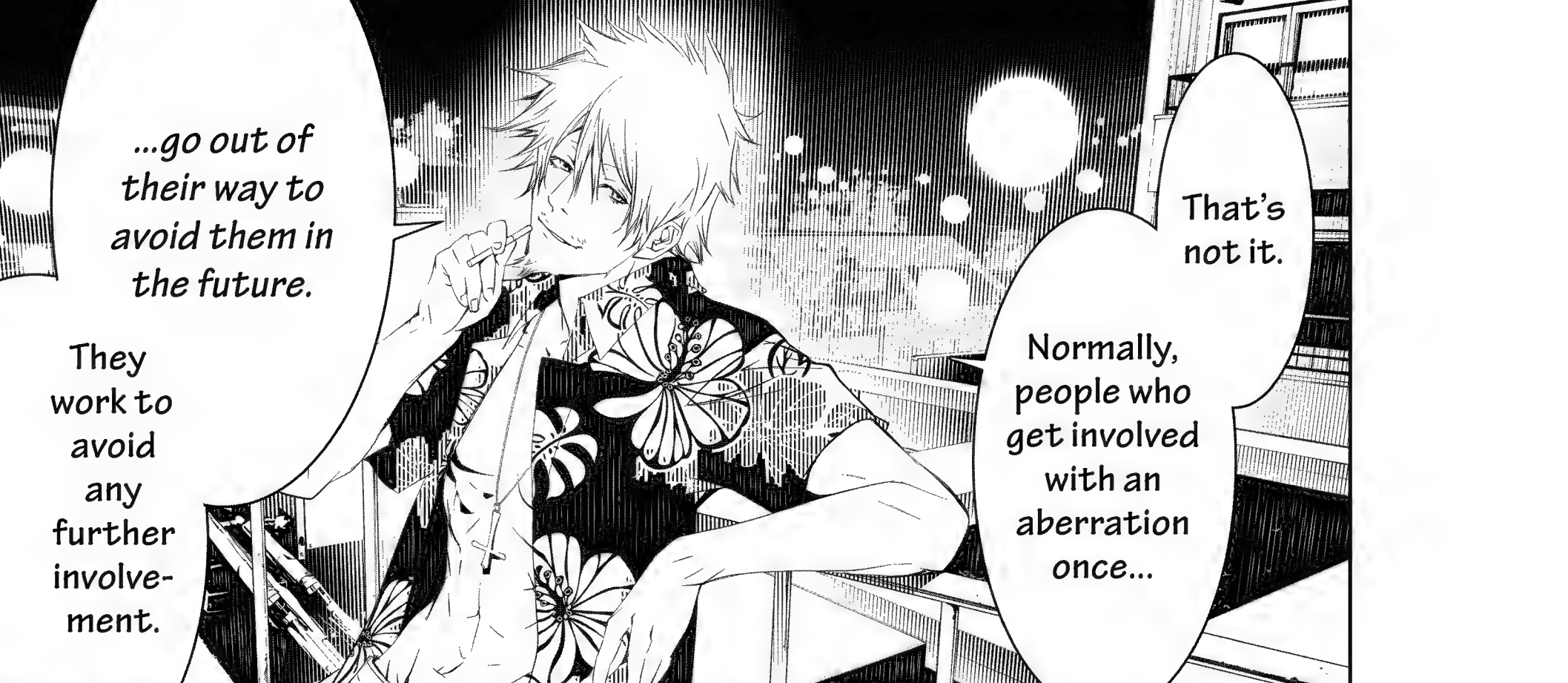
There's
no end
to it, is
there?

Why do
you try to
save every
single one
of them?

And in
the end...
I'm not much
help to any
of them...

"People just
go and get
saved on
their own"
...right?

...I
know.

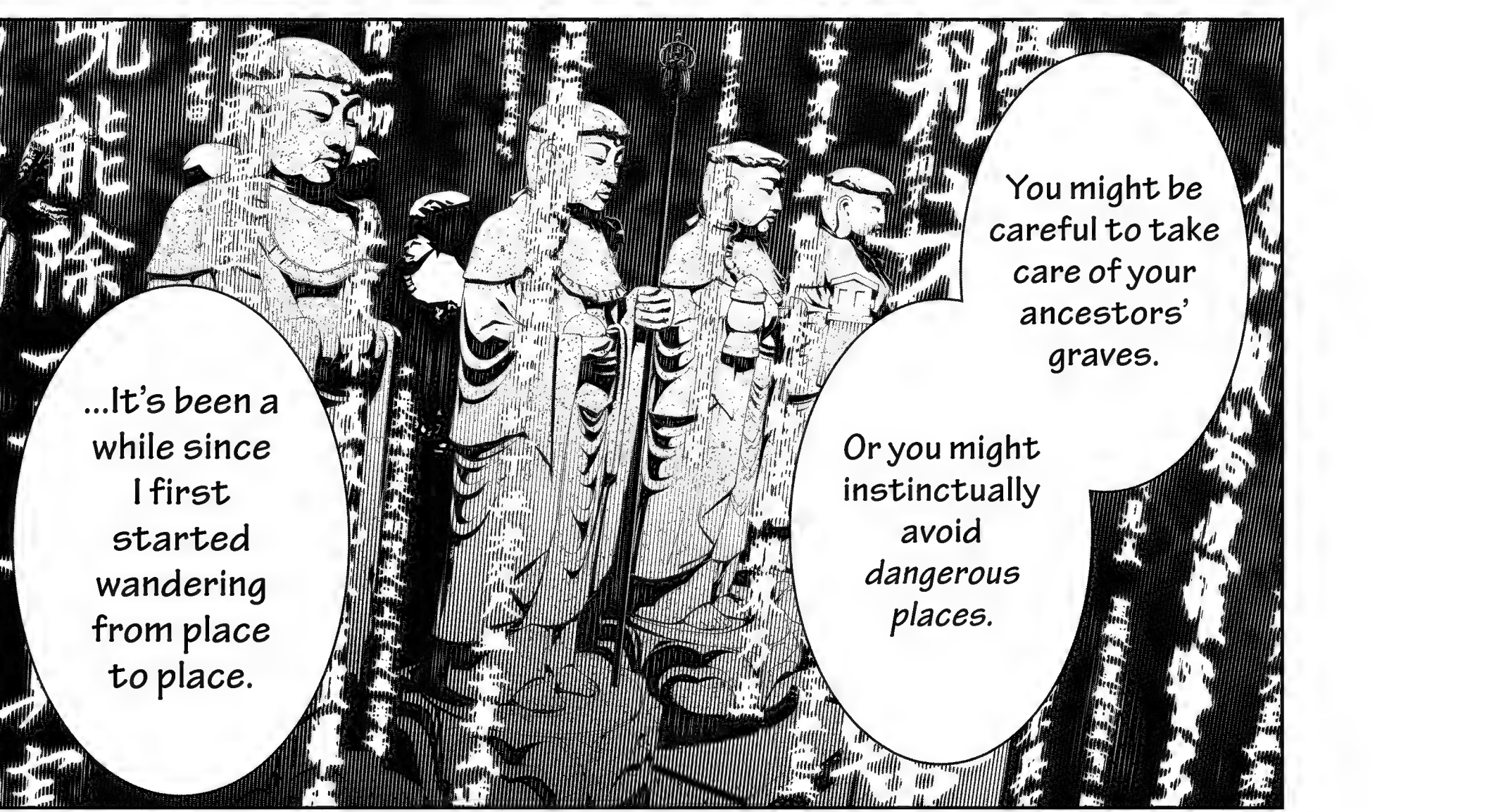


*...go out of
their way to
avoid them in
the future.*

They
work to
avoid
any
further
involvement.

That's
not it.

Normally,
people who
get involved
with an
aberration
once...



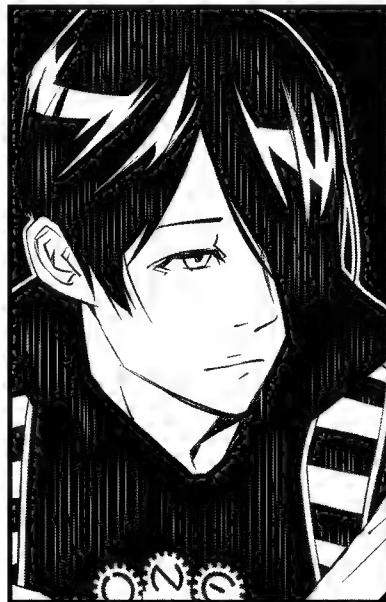
*...It's been a
while since
I first
started
wandering
from place
to place.*

You might be
careful to take
care of your
ancestors'
graves.

Or you might
instinctually
avoid
dangerous
places.



But this is
the first time
I've ever
spoken this
much with any
one person.



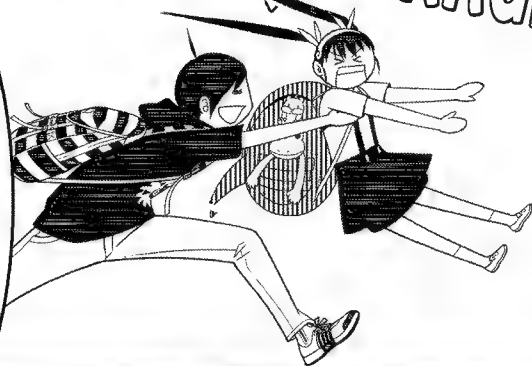
AA AAAGH!



HACHIKUJIII! ♡

HACHIKUJIII! ♡

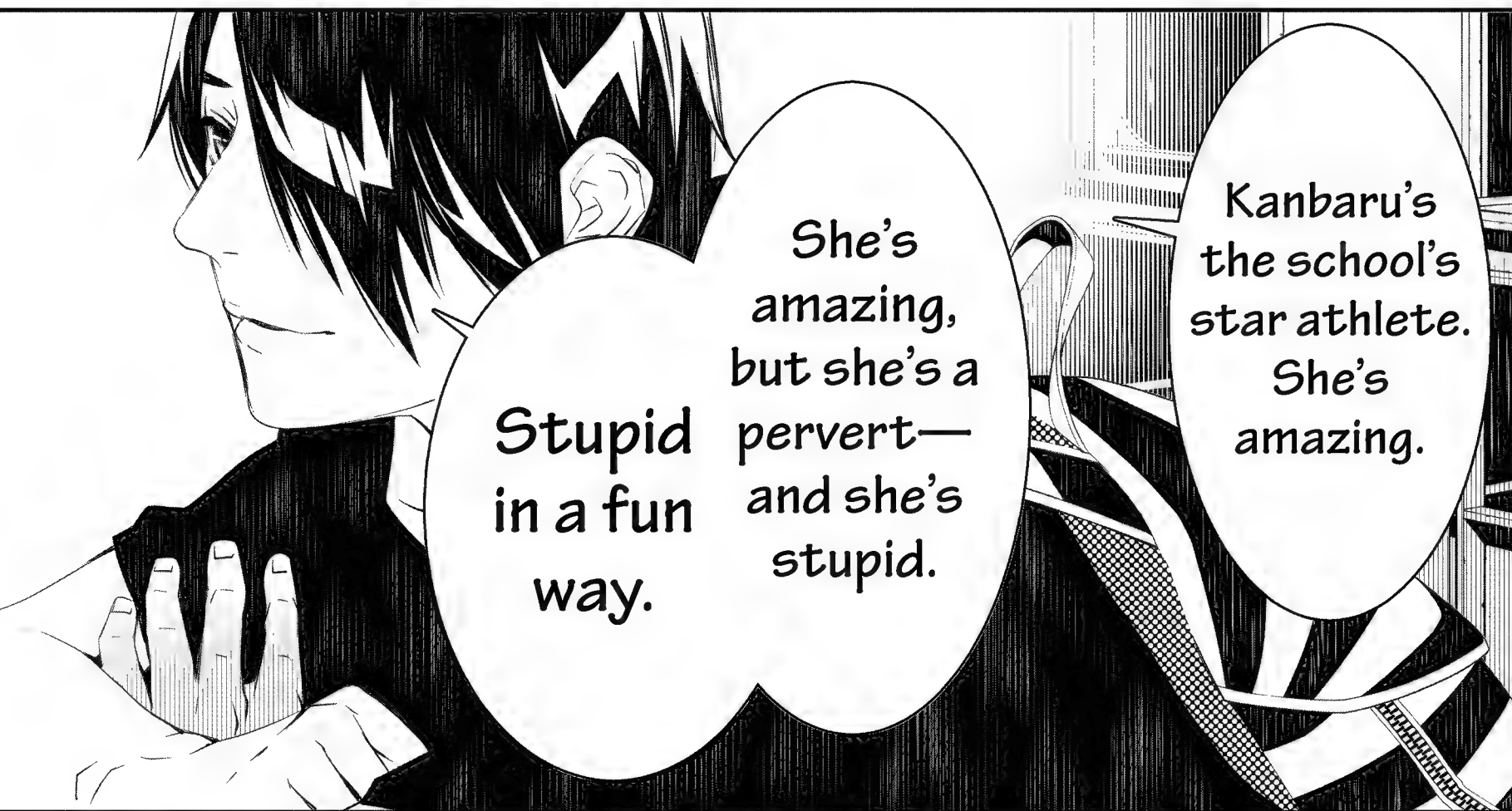
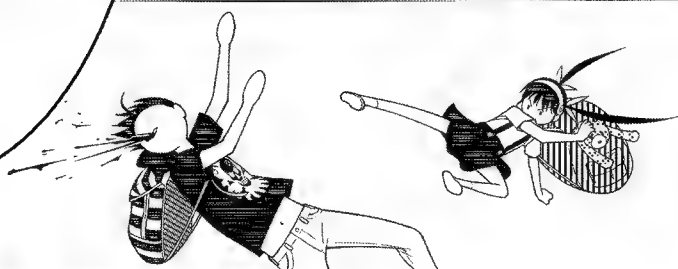
AAAGH



Playing with
Hachikuji—is
so much fun.

But I
get her
back.

She might
sometimes
kick me
with all her
strength.



Stupid
in a fun
way.

She's
amazing,
but she's a
pervert—
and she's
stupid.

Kanbaru's
the school's
star athlete.
She's
amazing.





It has
nothing
to do with
aberra-
tions.

that they
were *able*
to turn out
that way—
it makes
me happy.

The fact
they
turned
out that
way—

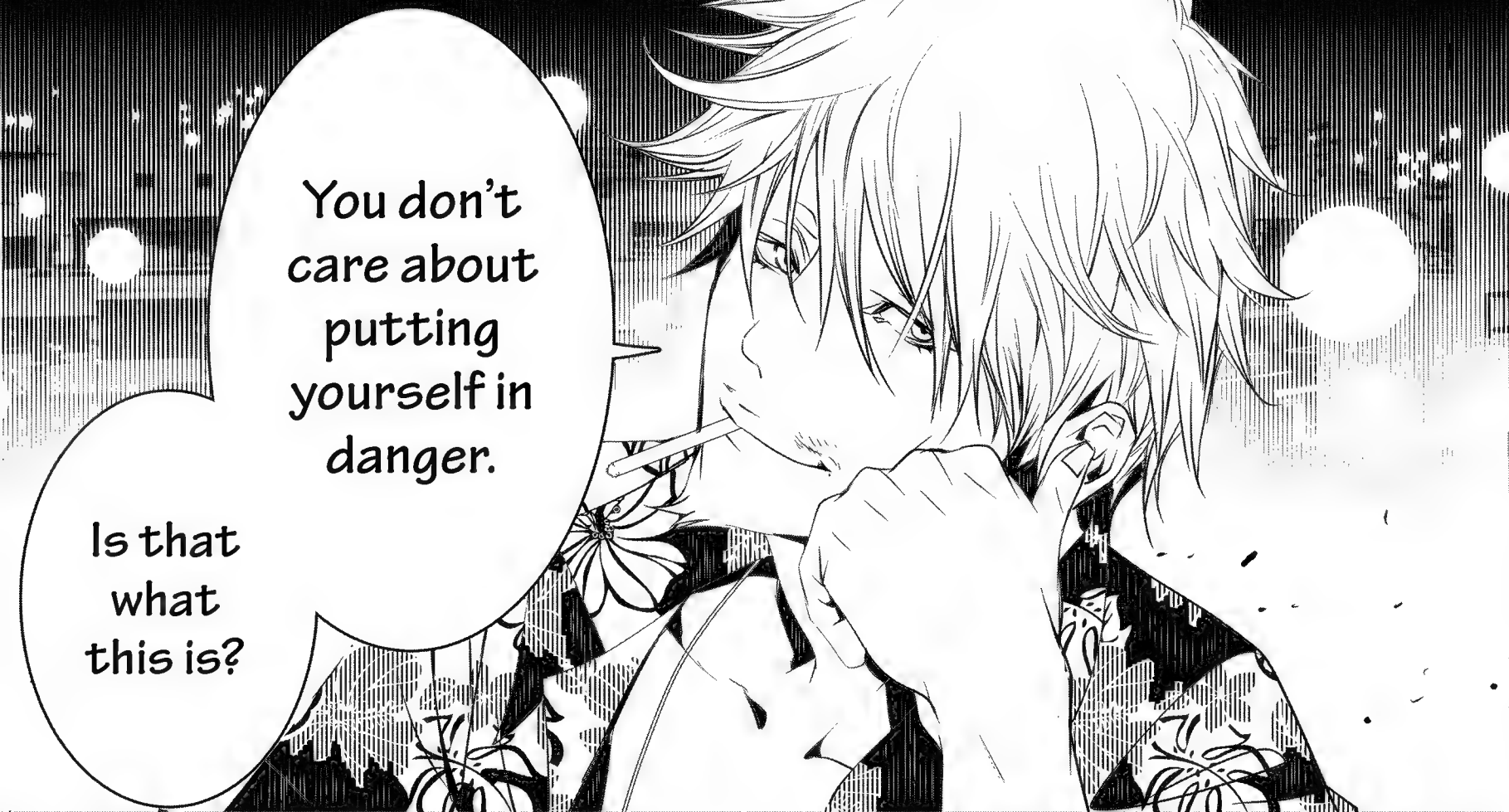


If they're
feeling
the same
way that
I do about
them—

If they
feel half the
way I do...
No, even
a tenth.

...But
maybe,
even if
it's just
a little
bit...

I didn't help
them out
at all...
And maybe I
still don't.



You don't
care about
putting
yourself in
danger.

Is that
what
this is?



Whatever
happened
to "active
solitude"?



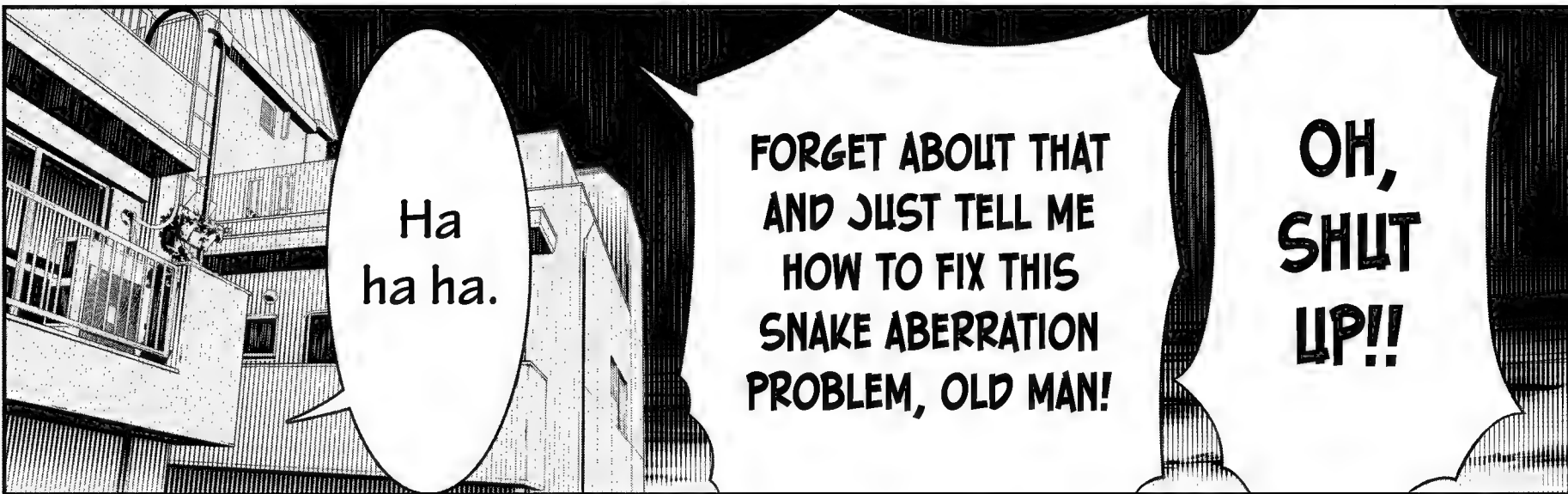
I'm not
that
selfless.

I just...



That having
friends would
lower your
intensity as
a human—or
something.

You used to
talk about that.
Remember,
back when we
first met...? You
looked so smug
about it, too.



Kanbaru's home was too far, and I wasn't so sure about bringing an innocent girl like this to a room that filthy, so—



...Nadeko Sengoku said she had something she wanted to show me.

"Take me somewhere indoors where people won't see us."

**OH!
SO THIS IS
MY DEAR
SENIOR'S
ROOM!**

**NOW
THAT
I THINK
ABOUT IT,
THIS IS
MY FIRST
TIME
INSIDE
A BOY'S
ROOM!**



Why are all these monumental firsts in my life with her, of all people...?

Come to think of it, this is my first time having a girl in my room, too...



...



**JUST
SIT OVER
THERE!!**

**THAT'S WHAT
GUYS DO
WHEN THEY
GO TO THEIR
MALE FRIENDS'
ROOMS!!**

Is this
where
you
keep
your
dirty
books?

O k a y ,
t h e n . .



**NOT ONLY DO
I NOT FIND IT
WORTHWHILE,
I FIND IT
ACTIVELY
HARMFUL!**

But I
would find it
worthwhile
to know your
tastes.

**TAKE YOUR PICK,
KANBARU!
SIT DOWN OR
JUMP OUT OF THAT
WINDOW!**

**SAYS THE
WALKING BAD
INFLUENCE!**

Ah,
so you have
books that are
harmful to
minors...



I looked into
your tastes
long ago, when
I was still
stalking you.



Just
kidding!

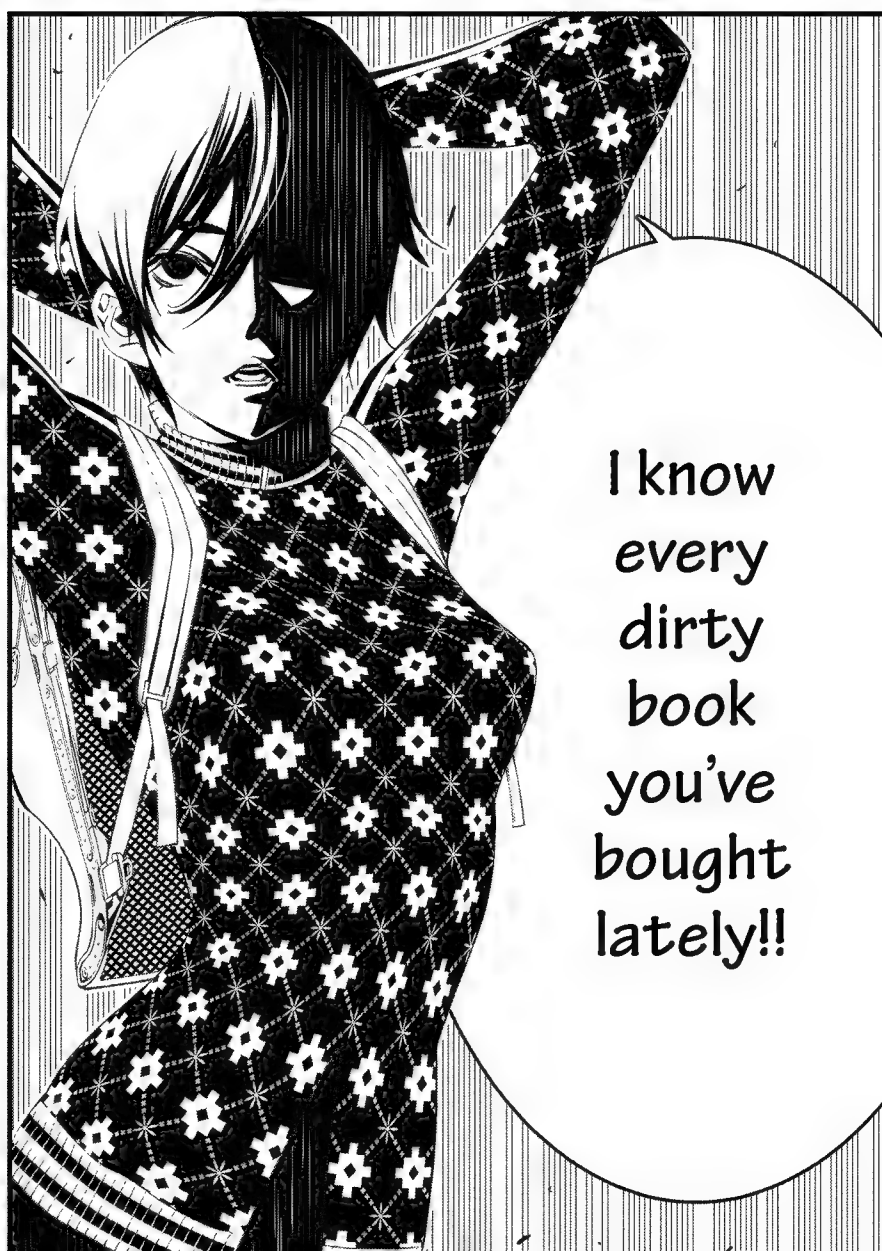
You know
I'm joking
around,
my senior
Araragi.



**WHAAT?!
N-NO
WAY....!!**

**I MADE
SURE OF
IT!!**

**I WAS
CERTAIN
NO ONE
ELSE
WAS IN
THAT
STORE....!**



I know
every
dirty
book
you've
bought
lately!!

YOU'RE
DOWN TO ONE
OPTION!
JUMP OUT THAT
WINDOW!!

YOUR TASTES
ARE QUITE
OUT THERE,
AREN'T THEY?



But that's like
child's play
for me. I could
withstand it.

YOU'RE
PROUD
OF IT!!

Zentai Ma

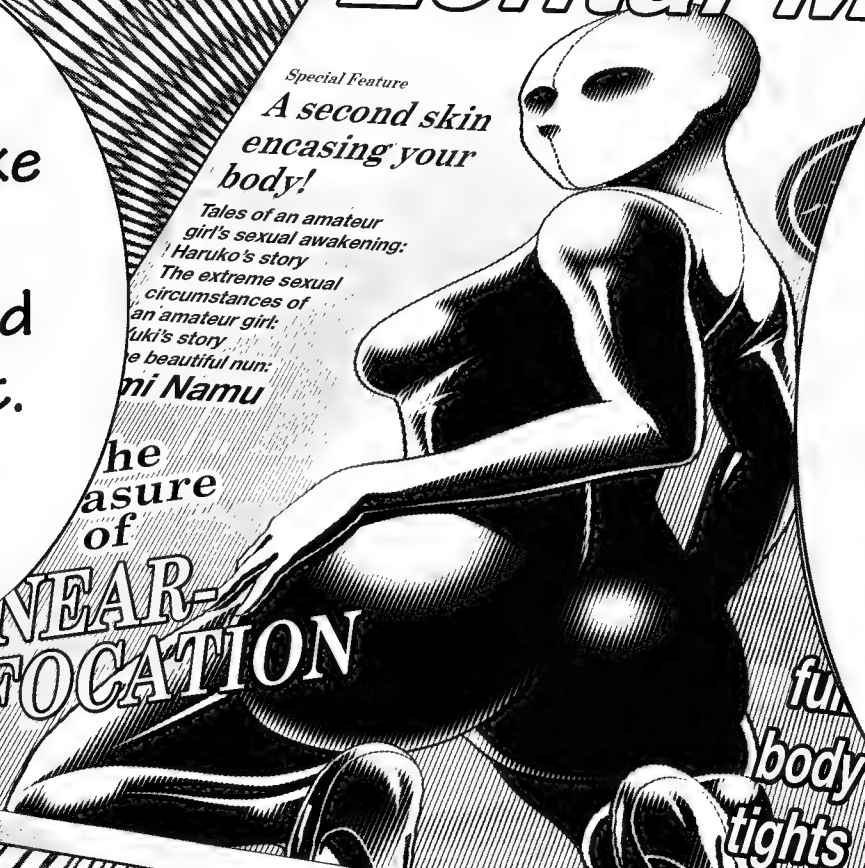
Special Feature
*A second skin
encasing your
body!*

*Tales of an amateur
girl's sexual awakening:
Haruko's story
The extreme sexual
circumstances of
an amateur girl:
Fuki's story
The beautiful nun:
mi Namu*

he
asure
of

NEAR-
SUFFOCATION

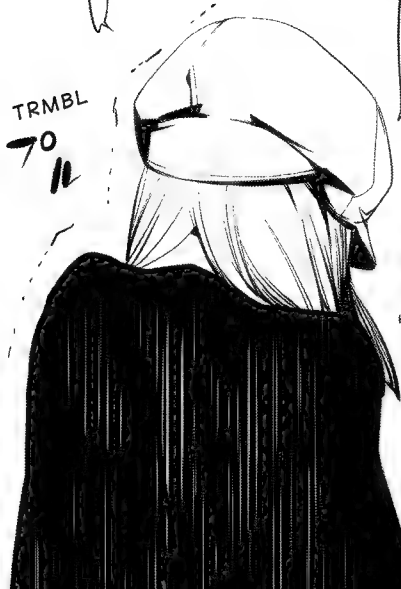
fun
body
tights



I'm
sure most
girls facing
that kind of
fetish would
jump out of
a window if
that was the
only way to
escape.



TRMBL
70 11

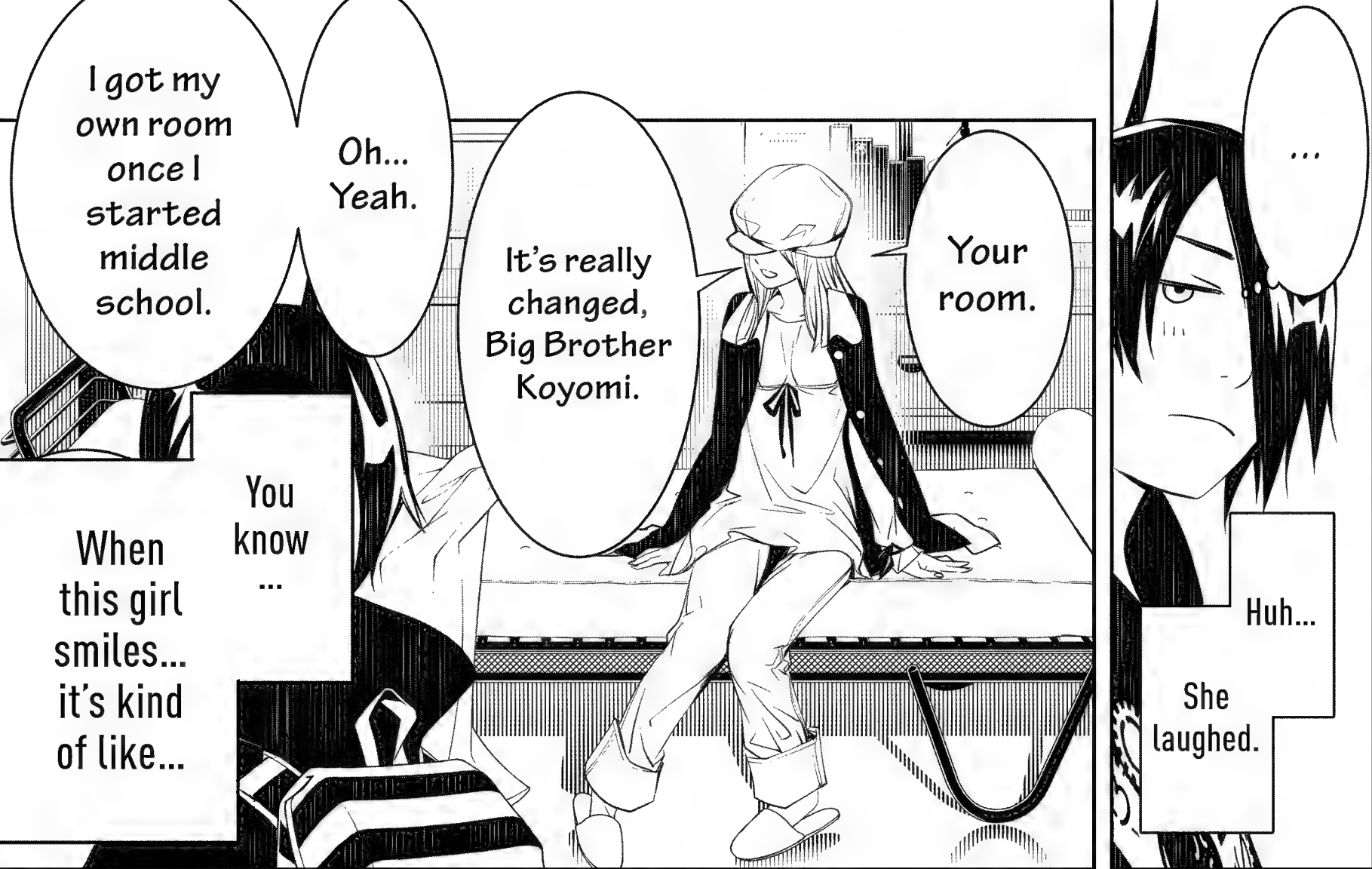


TRMBL
70 11
70 11
TRMBL

Keh
heh
...

...
Nnh
...









I've had to endure a lot already, hearing a female friend tell me all about her kinks...

Even higher?!

Please endure it. This is for her sake.

That said, I'm planning on turning it up even higher.



...straight to self-harm.

...but she's a pretty serious case. One wrong move could drive someone like that...

I've seen a lot of girls like her before...



Self-harm.

Huh?



...It's okay now... You can turn around... Um.





...Wha
...?!!



**VOLLEY-
BALL
SHORTS?!
IMPOSSIBLE!!
THOSE
THINGS
WERE
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE
BEEN WIPED
OUT LONG
AGO!!**

Yep. Now *that*
being your first
reaction is what
I expect from
my dear senior
Araragi.

No, that'd
be a sick
and twisted
plot on a
young lady's
life.

I see. You just
happened
to be carrying
around
volleyball
shorts,
my dear
junior?

They're
a simple
and
tasteful
part of
a young
lady's
life.

I lent
them
to her—
since I just
happened
to be
carrying
them
around.





WHAT EXACTLY
DID YOU THINK
I WANTED WHEN
I SUMMONED
YOU TODAY?!

WHAT
DID YOU
THINK WAS
COMING TO
PASS?!

I had
them
ready
in case
something
like this
came to
pass.

AND
WHERE DID
YOU EVEN
GET A PAIR
OF THOSE
THINGS,
ANYWAY?!

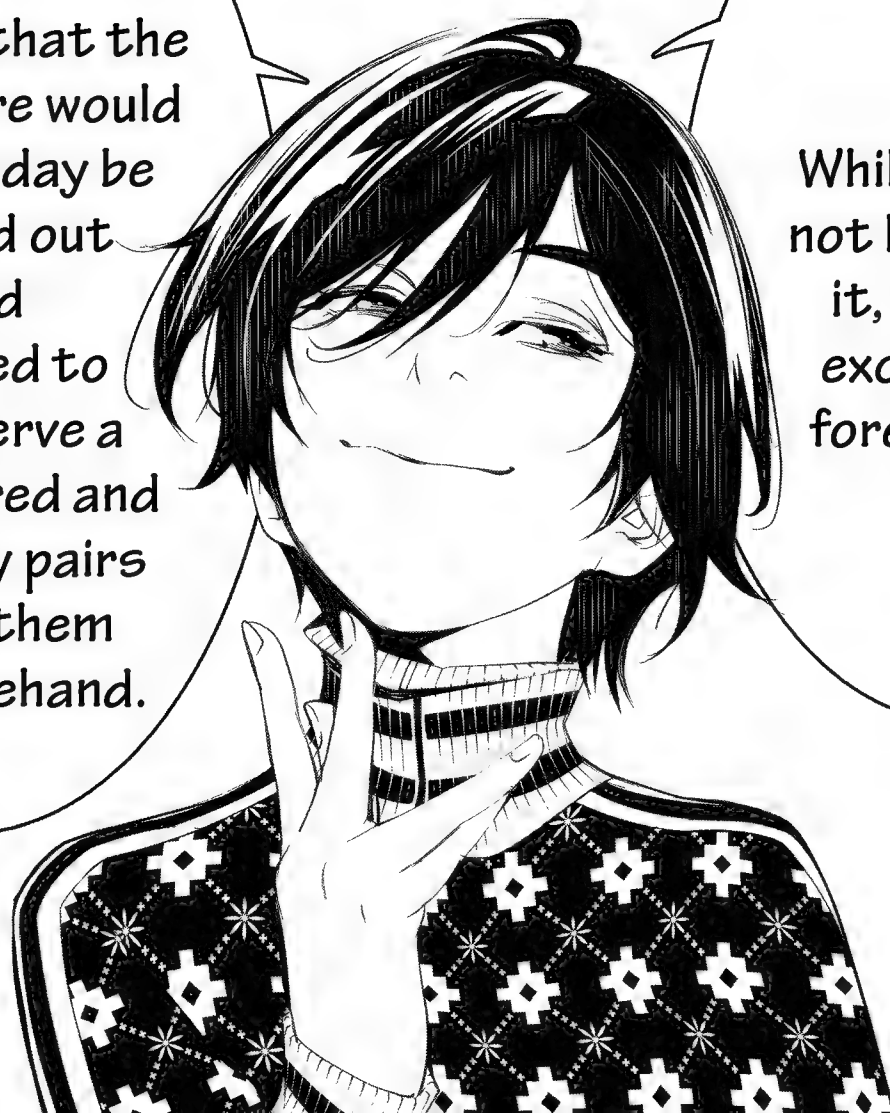
YOU'RE
MAKING ME
DOUBT
MY OWN
CREDIBILITY!



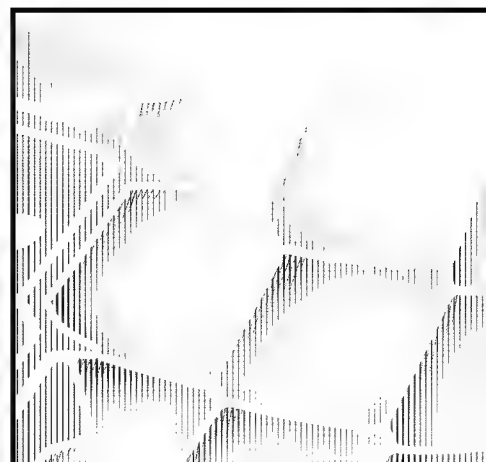
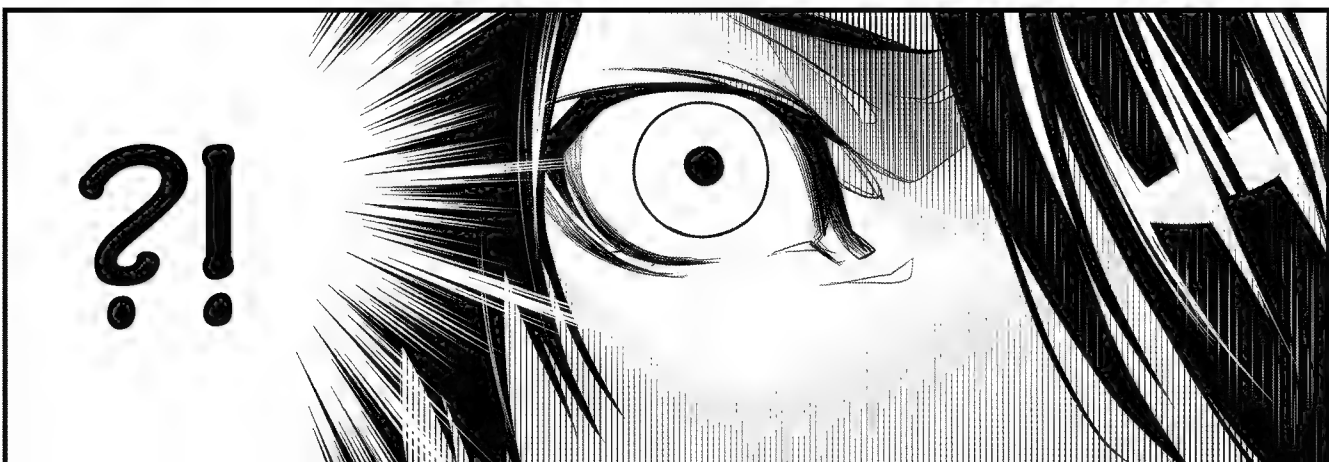
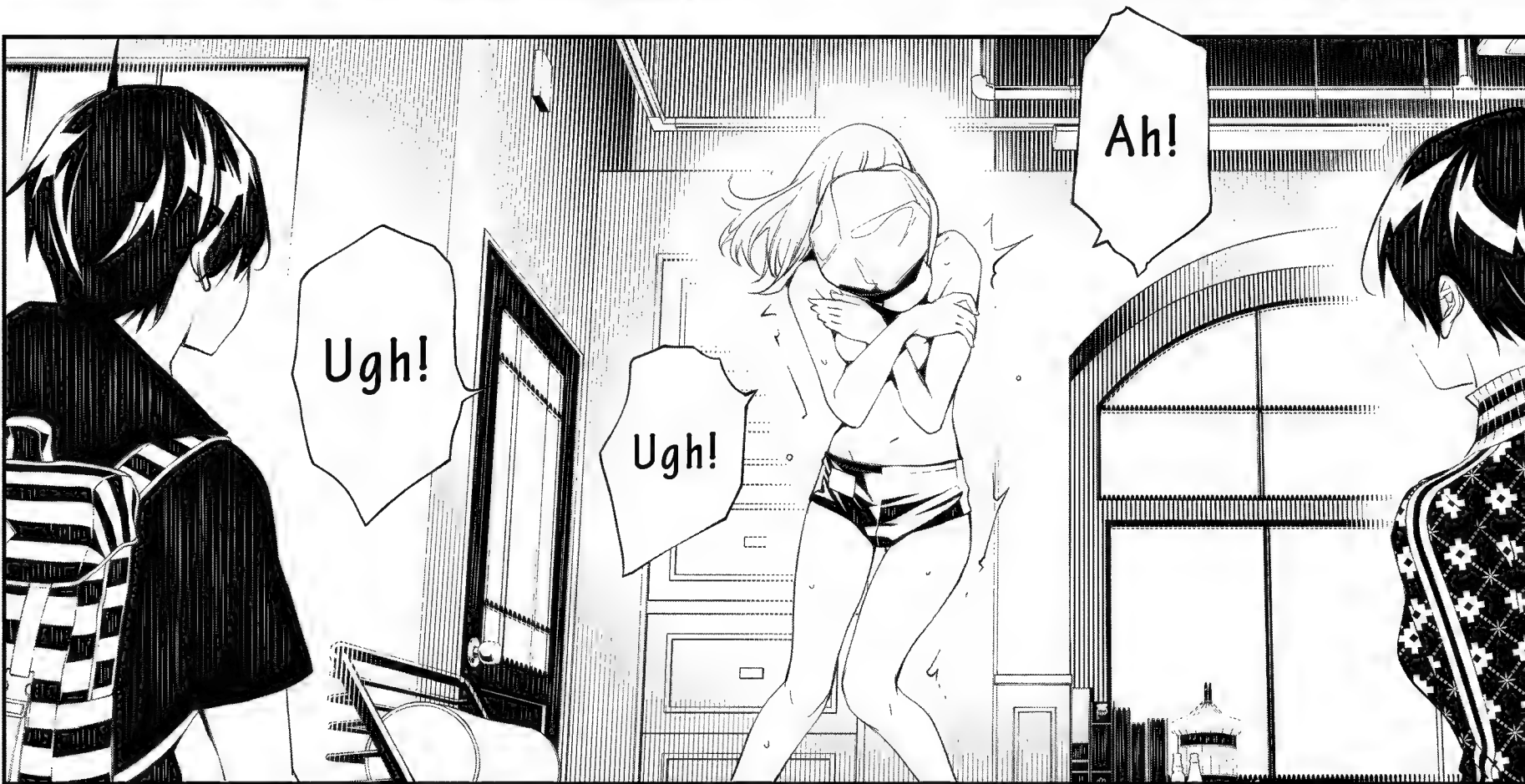
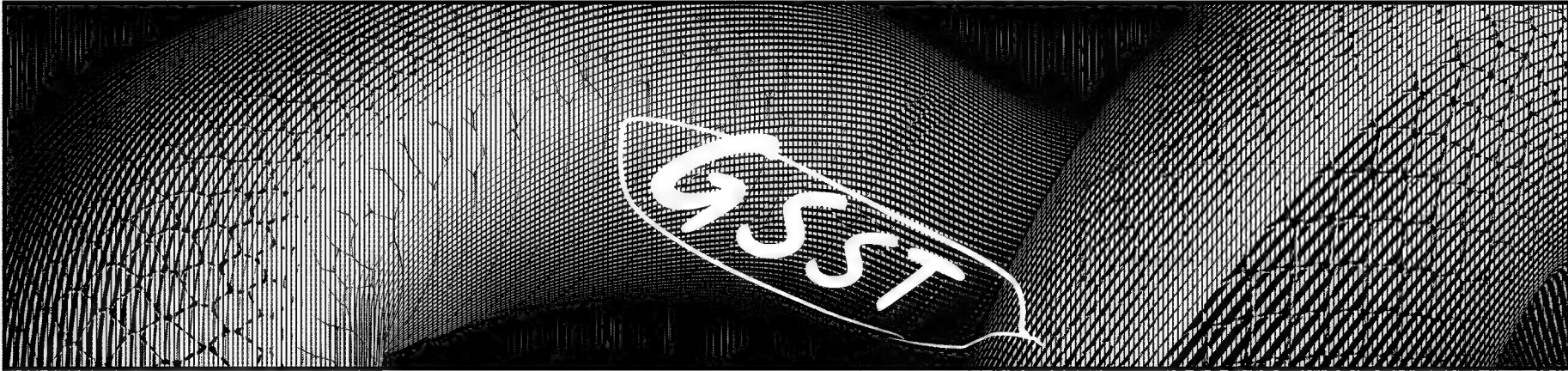
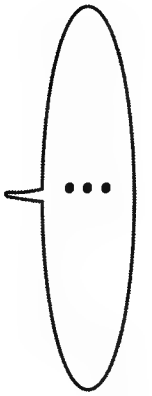
Could
you
be the
reason
they
went
ex-
tinct?

That's not
conserva-
tion, it's
over-
hunting,
isn't it?

I saw that the
culture would
someday be
wiped out
and
decided to
conserve a
hundred and
fifty pairs
of them
beforehand.



While I may
not look like
it, I have
excellent
foresight.





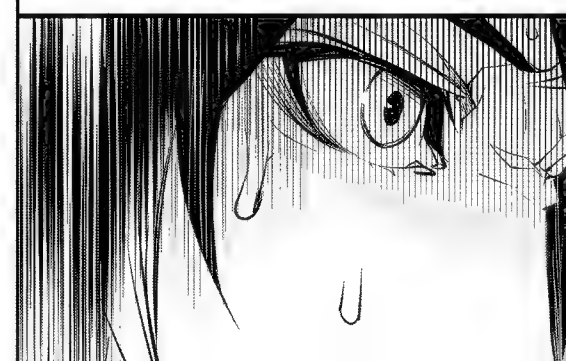
p.
Please...
look ...!!

I...
I'm...
okay.

Sen-
goku!



Scale...
tattoos?
...No...
That's not
it...







They're like rope bondage marks...

That's what they remind me of.

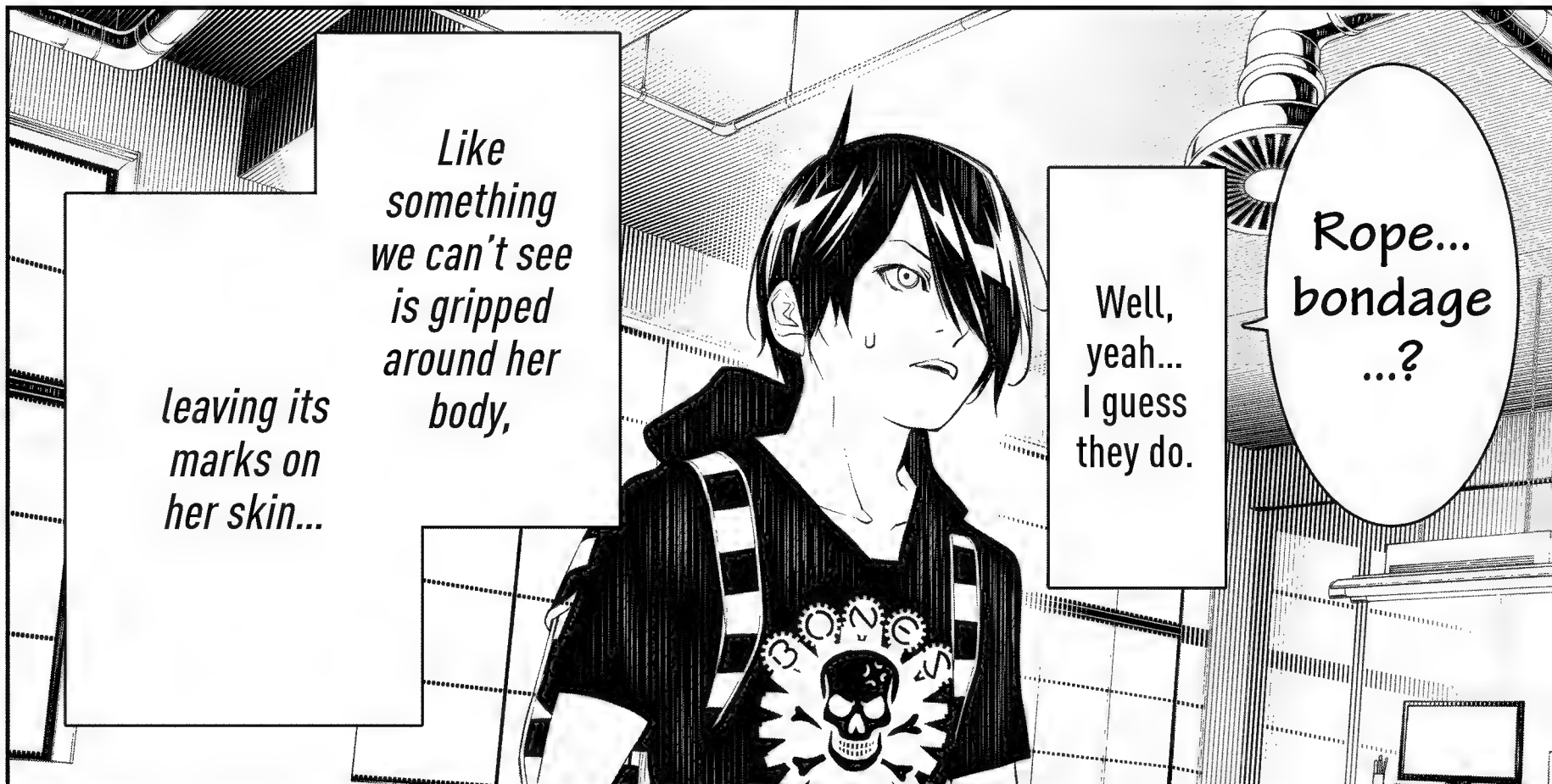


Can I touch them, Sengoku?

Ah!

...Y-Yes ...!

TWITCH



Rope... bondage ...?

Well, yeah... I guess they do.

Like something we can't see is gripped around her body, leaving its marks on her skin...



Big Brother Koyomi ...?

U-Um...

...



...O-Oh...
N-No way,
of course not!
Right,
Kanbaru?!

Huh
?

You're an adult
already...so you
aren't having any
dirty thoughts
seeing me naked,
are you...?

Yes?
Um...
I...
guess
?



It might
do you
good going
forward to
know that
some people
think dirty
thoughts
when they
see little girls
nude precisely
because
they're
adults.

But if
I'm being
completely
honest
with you,
Sengoku
...

Where'd all
that loyalty
of yours go?!

Hey, play
along!!



I think in this
case, it only
makes you more
suspect as a
man if you show
no interest
whatsoever
in seeing her
naked—
or maybe, it's
just rude
to her?

I don't
know,
though,
Araragi.

AND WE'D
GOTTEN
ALONG SO
WELL UNTIL
NOW!!

**YOU'VE
BE-
TRAYED
ME!!**

How
inconsid-
erate!! Say
anything at
all, it doesn't
matter what
it is!

It'd only be
polite to
provide some
feedback!!

Well,
I see her
point...

Hm.

Senjogahara
did say back
then that it's
only polite to
provide some
feedback...

Now
that
I think
about
it,

Let me
correct
myself.

BAM

I do have a
few dirty
thoughts
seeing you
naked,
Sengoku.





hate
...this body
...
having
...

I...



Asking a girl in a mental state as fragile as hers to strip in front of Oshino could very well cause her to kill herself...

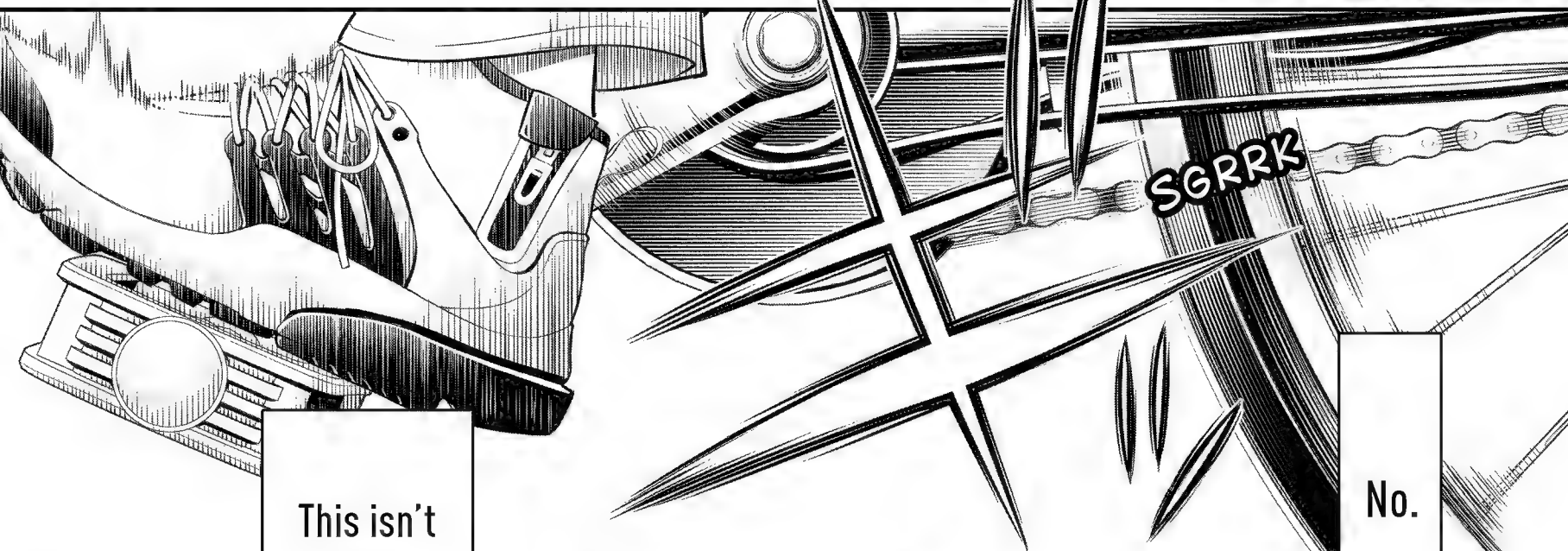
As much as I hesitated to leave a half-naked girl with the lust-driven demon that is Kanbaru,

I headed to Oshino's place alone.



...means
something
must be
taken
away.

You know,
Araragi—
to be given
some-
thing...



This isn't
about
saving
her...

No.

...or giving,
or taking
away...
It's not any
of that.



I
learned
that
during
Kan-
baru's
case.

This...
is
some-
thing
differ-
ent.



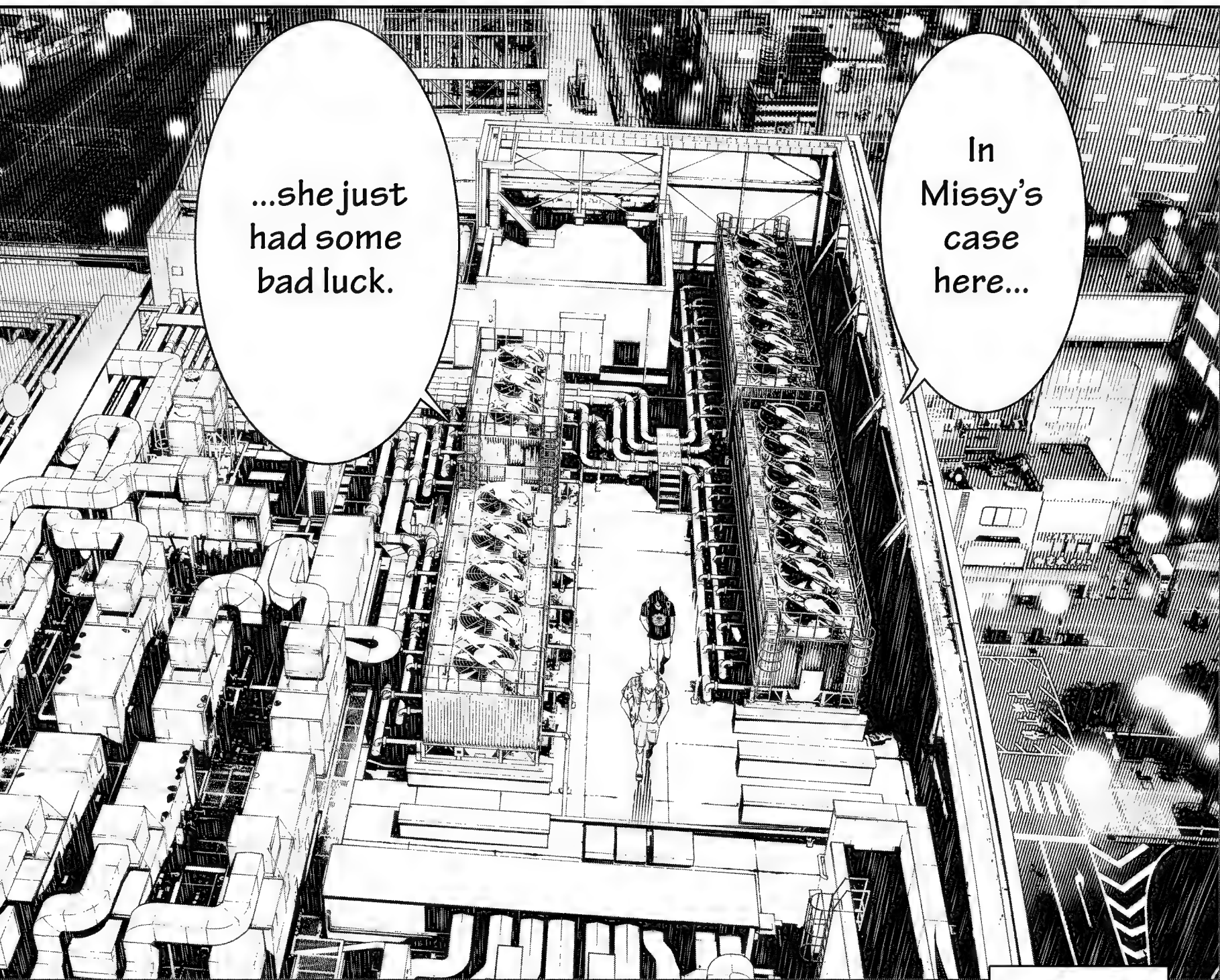


She deserves...
...to always wear a smile on her face.



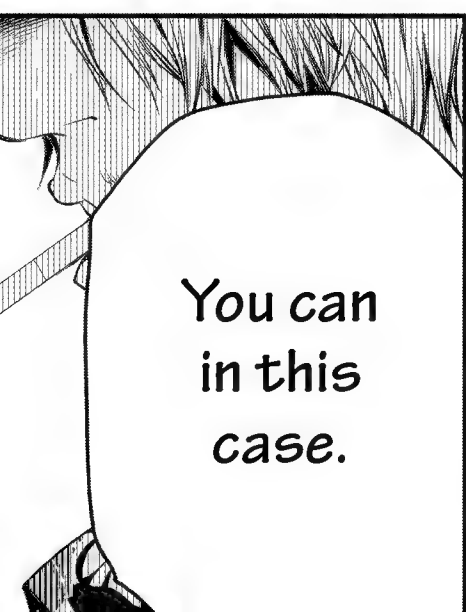
I
see...

Heh
heh...



...she just
had some
bad luck.

In
Missy's
case
here...



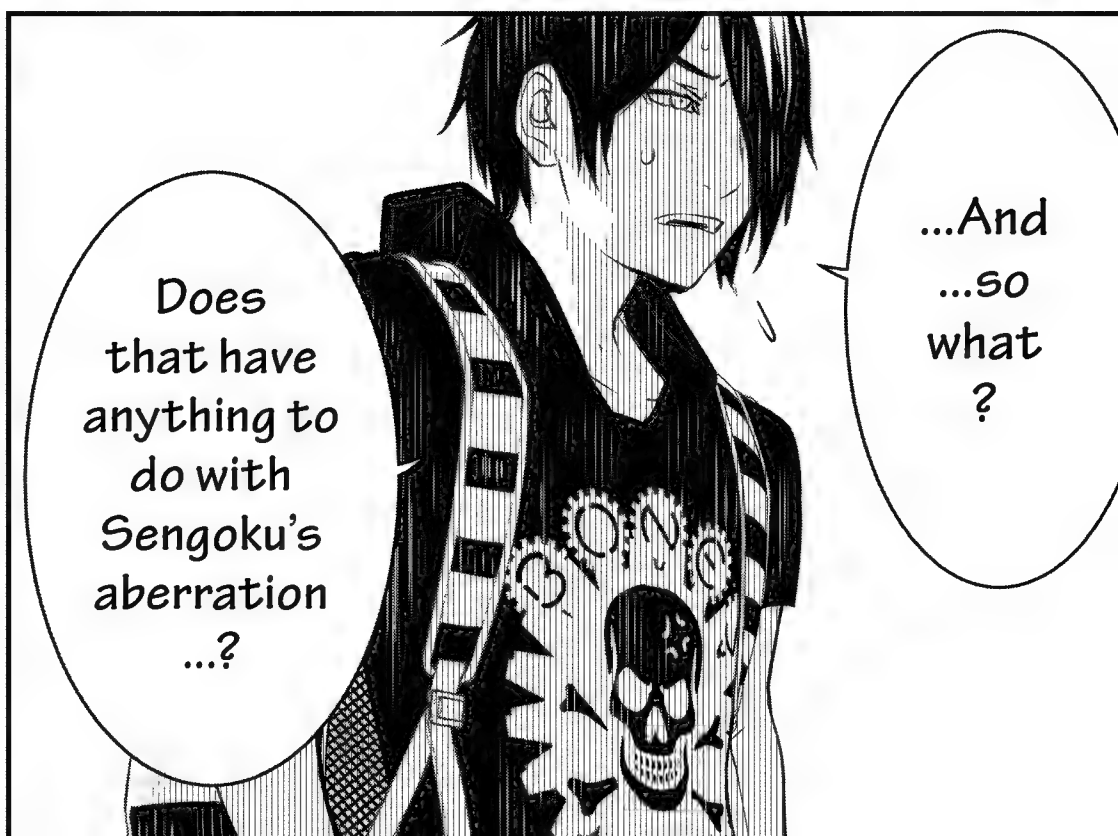
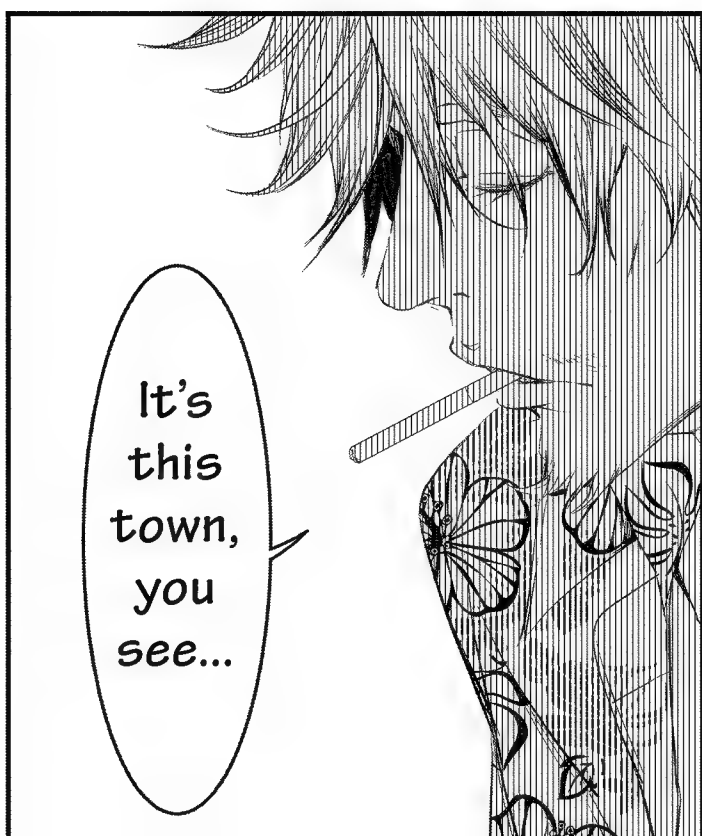
You can
in this
case.

Can you
really get
possessed
by an
aberration
due to bad
luck?!

What
do you
mean,
bad
luck...?



Luck?

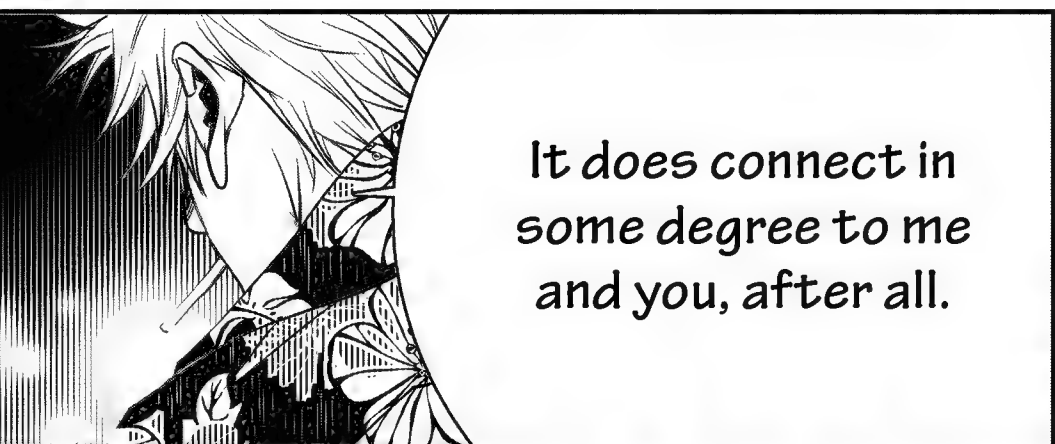




there are
too many
bad things
accumulating
here.

Right
now,

That
shrine
is the
center of
it all.



It does connect in
some degree to me
and you, after all.



Huh?



I couldn't
just
ignore it.

It's been in
disuse for so
long that there
aren't any
professionals
there to deal
with that fact.



*And she
had the
bad luck
to be
cursed by
someone
while
under its
influence.*

*Missy just so
happened to
be in—well,
I guess you'd
call it a place
conducive to
curses.*

*They're
what's
attracting
those "bad
things."*

*There
are two
kinds of
aberra-
tions
here
in this
town.*

Kiss-Shot
Acerola-
Orion
Heart-
Under-
Blade.



One would
have to be...
Shinobu,
naturally.



...of
aberra-
tions
...?

Two
kings
...



...is
you.

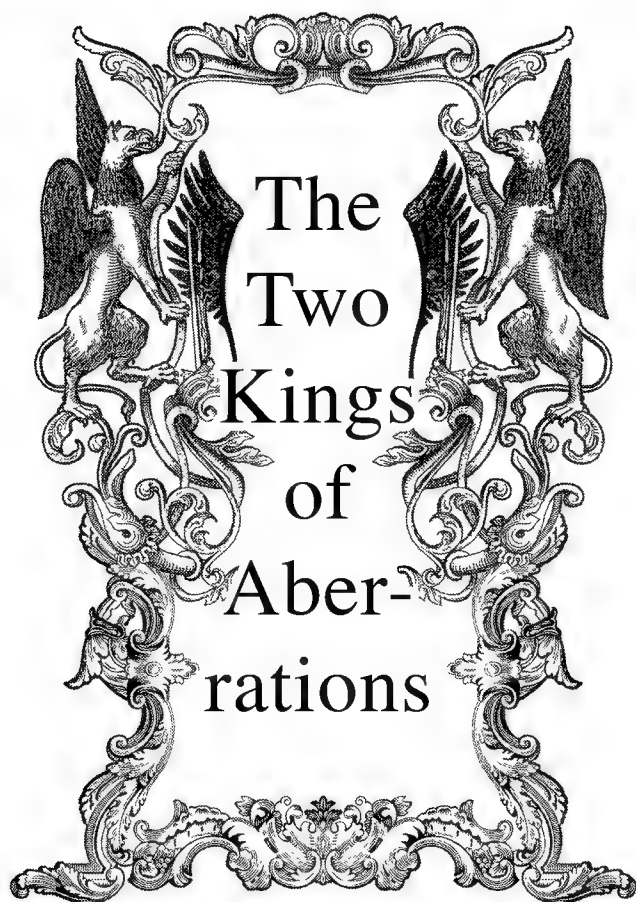
Araragi.

And
the
other,
of
course
...

aber-
rations
here
...?!

attract-
ing...

I'm
...

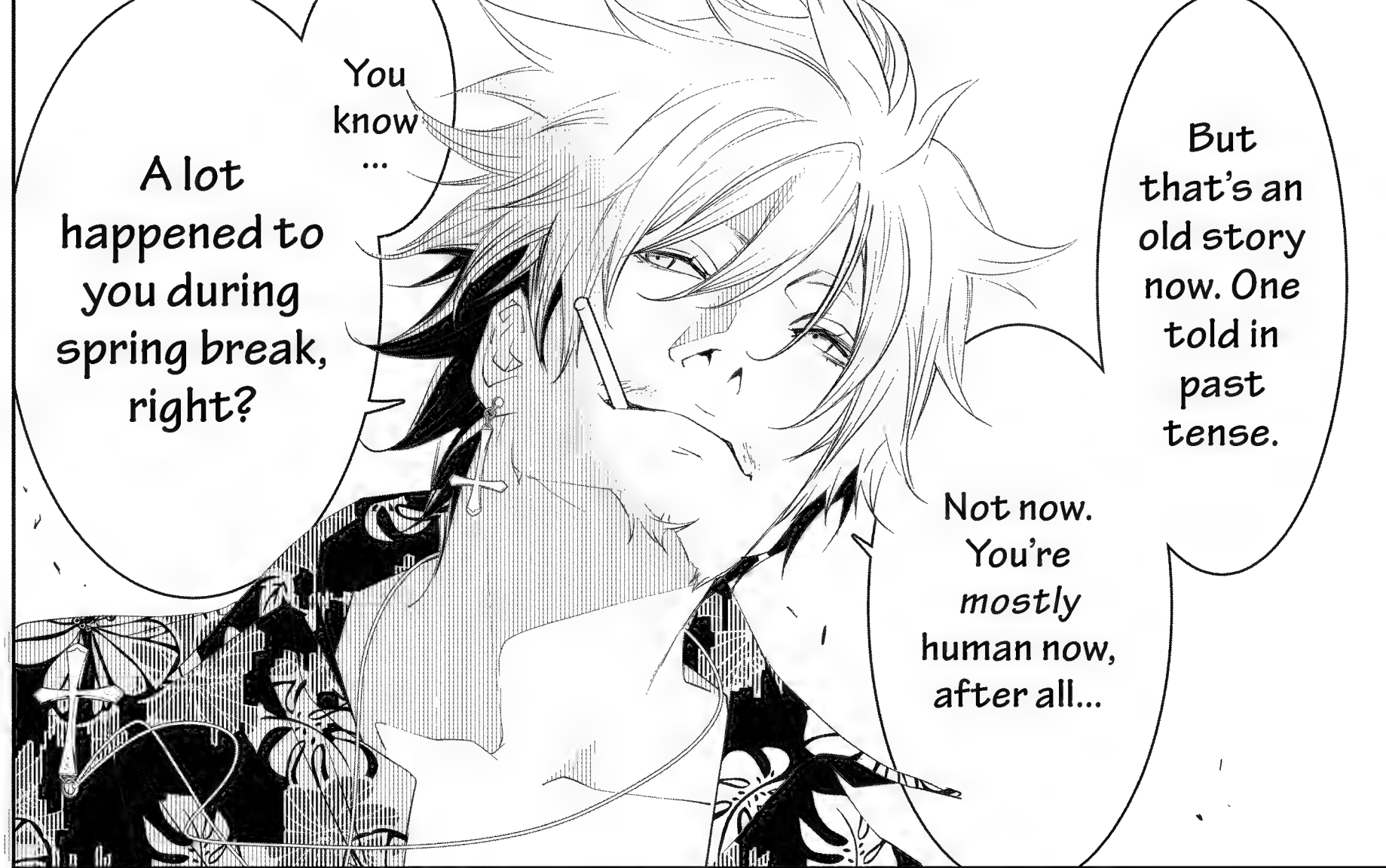


and Koyomi
Aragi.
The two
vampires.



Kiss-Shot
Acerola-Orion
Heart-
Under-Blade





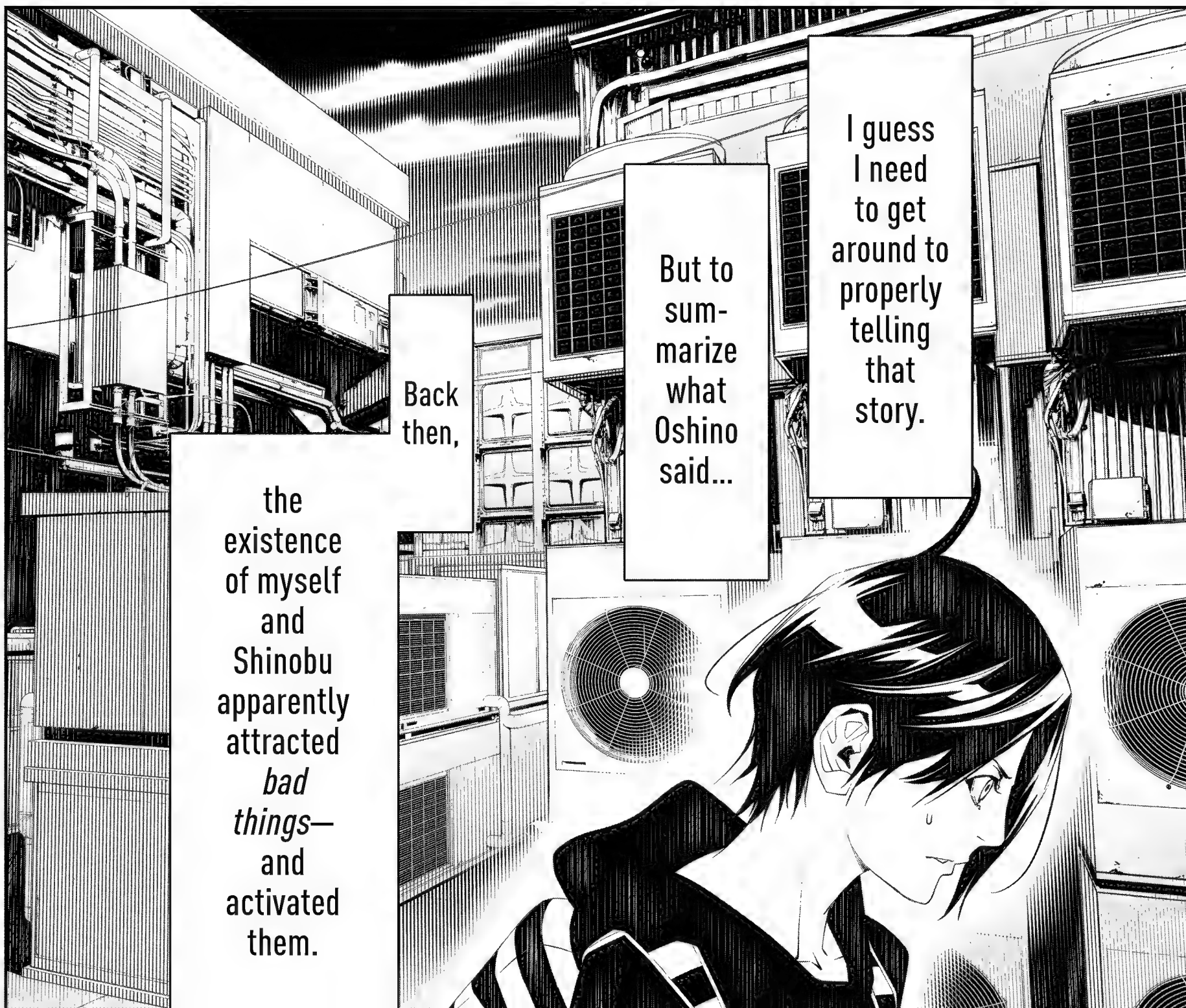
A lot
happened to
you during
spring break,
right?

You
know
...

But
that's an
old story
now. One
told in
past
tense.

Not now.
You're
mostly
human now,
after all...

Spring break.



I guess
I need
to get
around to
properly
telling
that
story.

But to
sum-
marize
what
Oshino
said...

Back
then,

the
existence
of myself
and
Shinobu
apparently
attracted
bad
things—
and
activated
them.



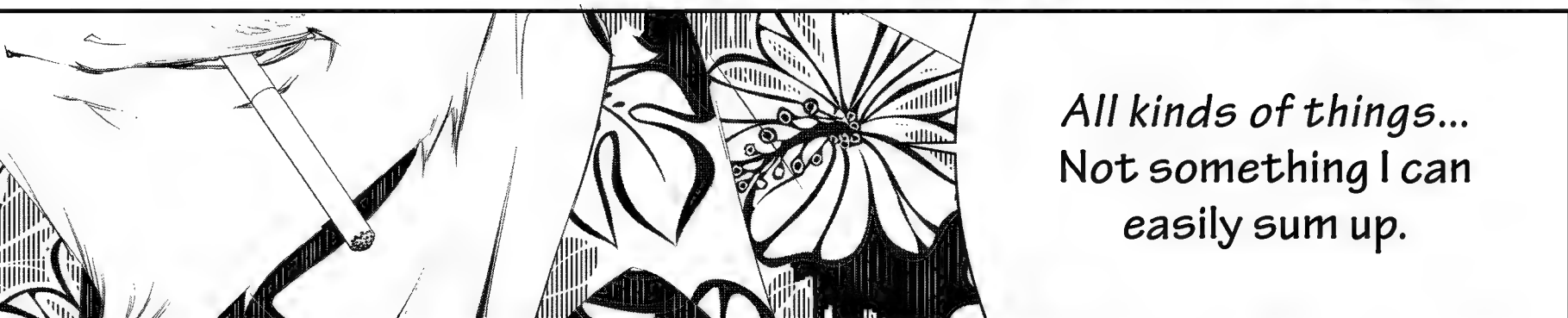
All right,
then.

That's also
why I've
stayed
here for so
long.
There's
all kinds of
tidying up
I've had to
do after the
fact, you
know?



What are
these *bad*
things...?

...All kinds?
Like what?



All kinds of things...
Not something I can
easily sum up.



I had fun
meeting
Missy Class
President
and Missy
Tsundere,
too.

My
business
is booming,
thanks to
you.

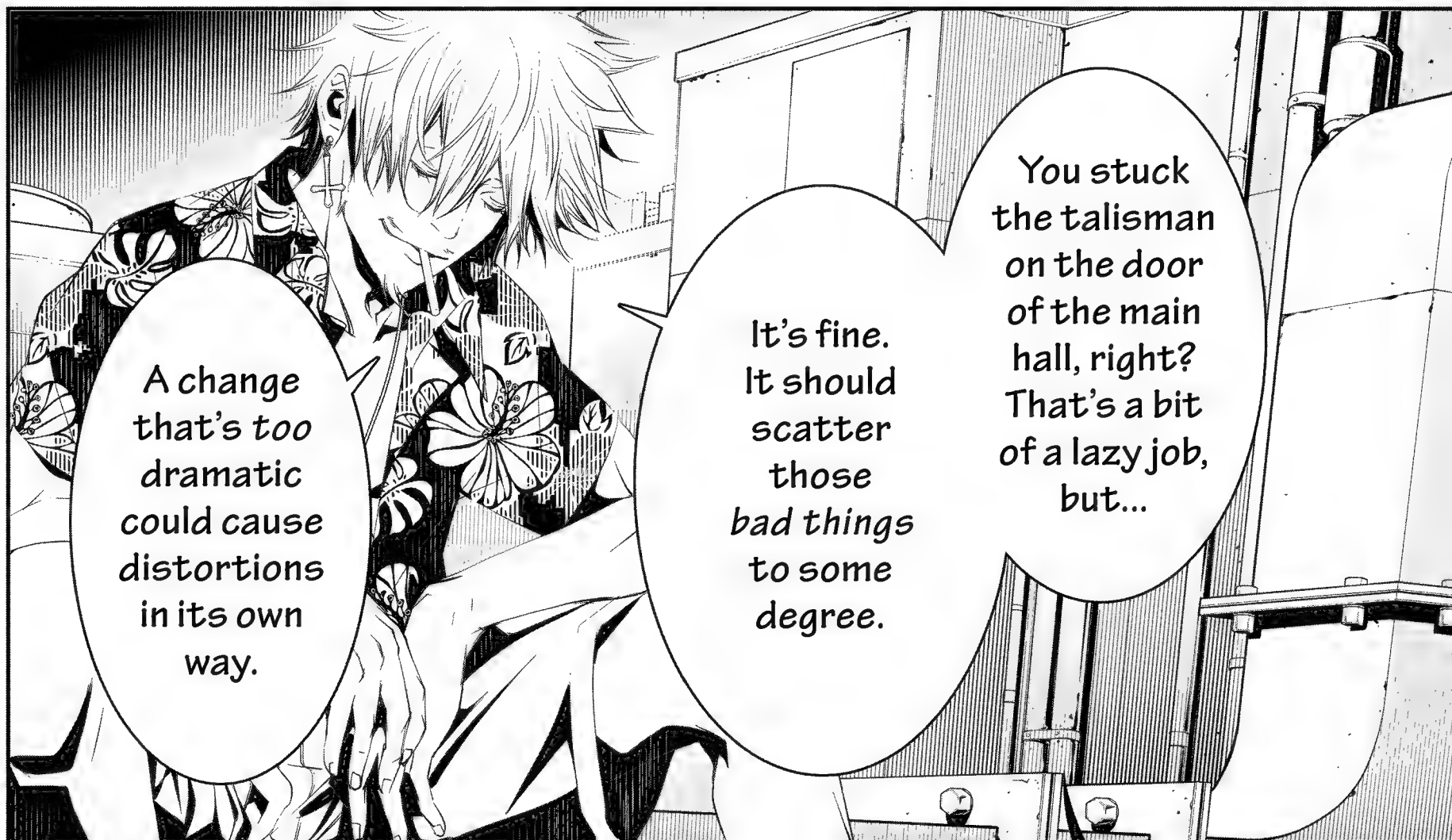
Of course,
my biggest
goal here was
to gather
information
on all kinds of
aberrations.



...Tell
me
these
things
ahead
of time!!

It was
that
import-
ant?!

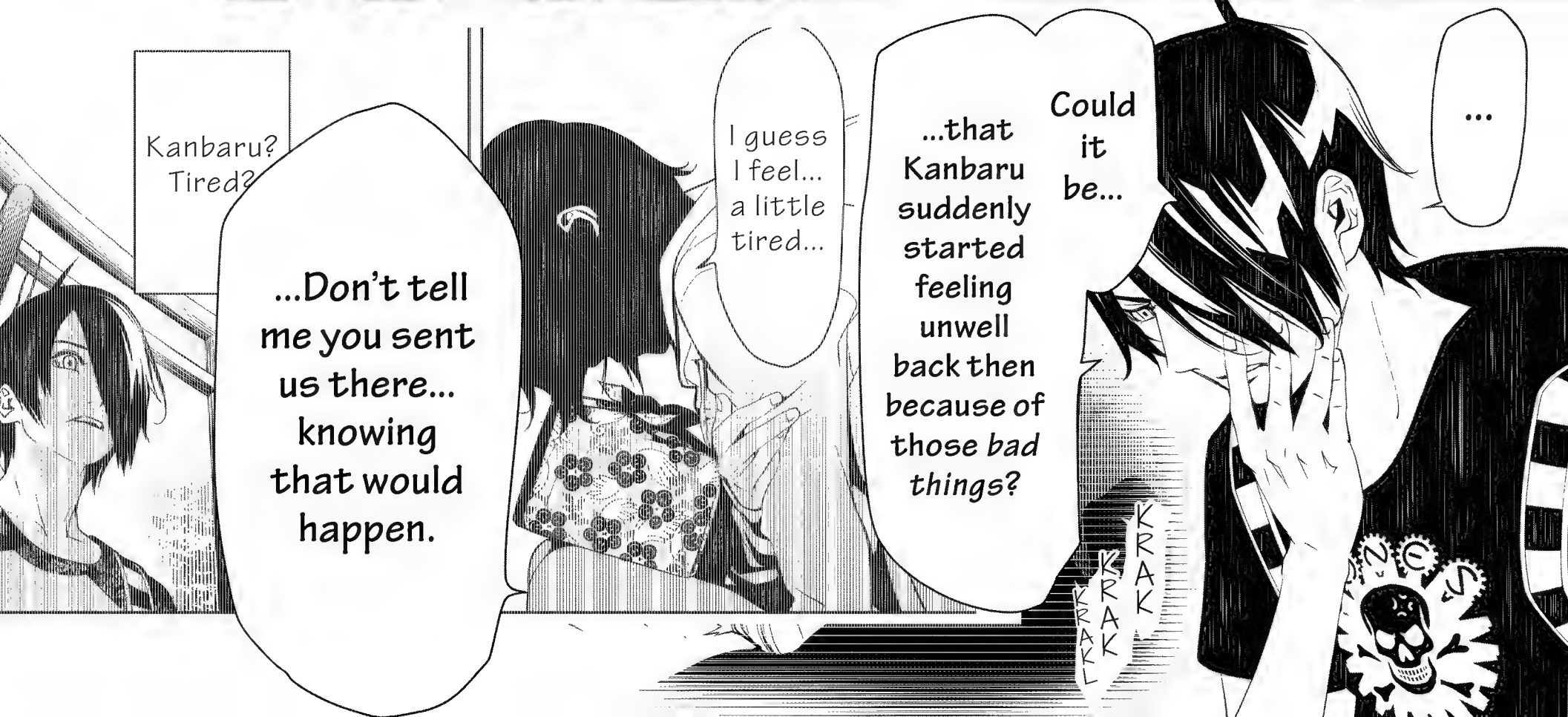
Wait,
so that
talisman
—



A change
that's *too*
dramatic
could cause
distortions
in its own
way.

It's fine.
It should
scatter
those
bad things
to some
degree.

You stuck
the talisman
on the door
of the main
hall, right?
That's a bit
of a lazy job,
but...



Kanbaru?
Tired?

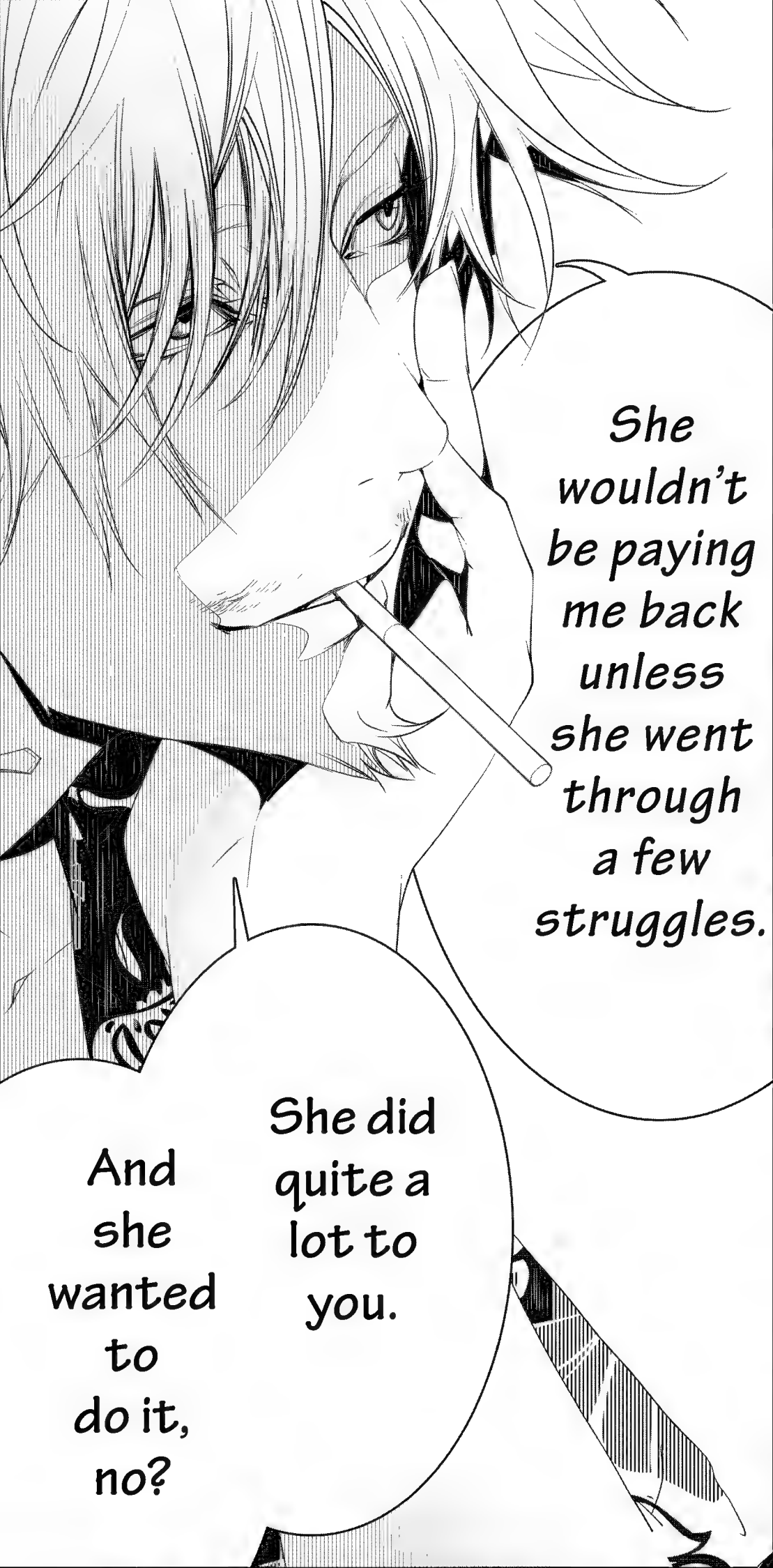
...Don't tell
me you sent
us there...
knowing
that would
happen.

I guess
I feel...
a little
tired...

...that
Kanbaru
suddenly
started
feeling
unwell
back then
because of
those *bad things*?

Could
it
be...

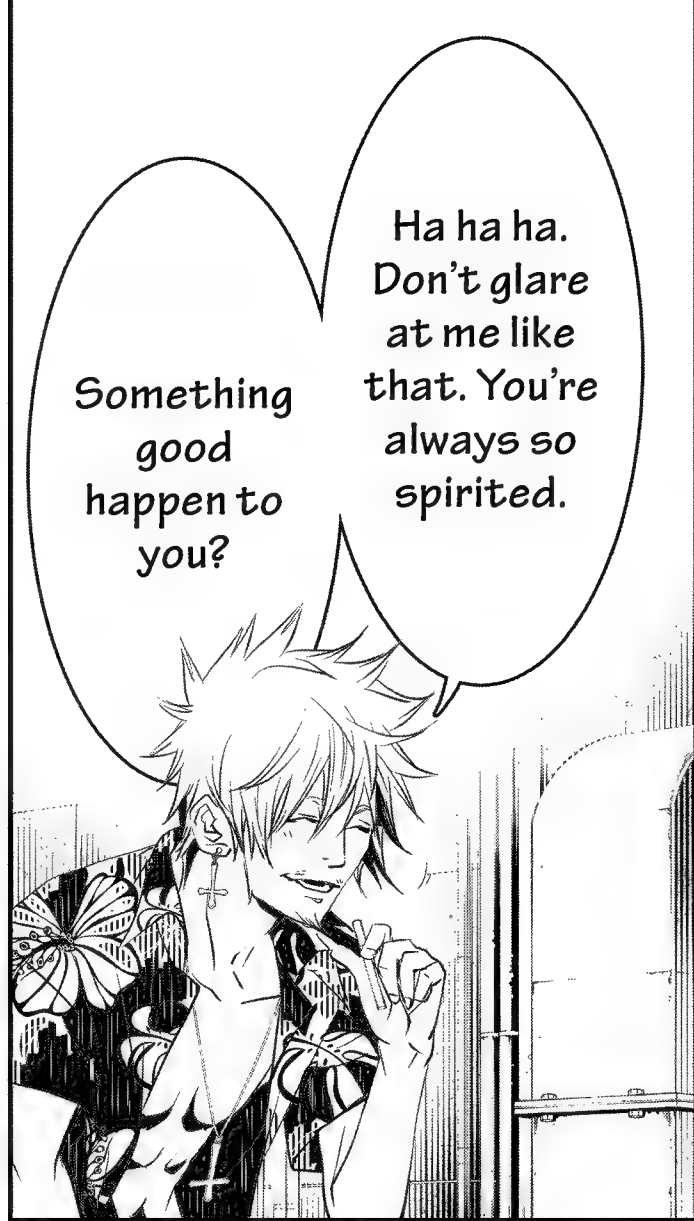
...



*She
wouldn't
be paying
me back
unless
she went
through
a few
struggles.*

And
she
wanted
to
do it,
no?

She did
quite a
lot to
you.



Something
good
happen to
you?

Ha ha ha.
Don't glare
at me like
that. You're
always so
spirited.



With this
job, I've
writ-
ten off
everything
she owed
me for
the Rainy
Devil, you
know.

—It was
part of
settling
your
debts,
Araragi.

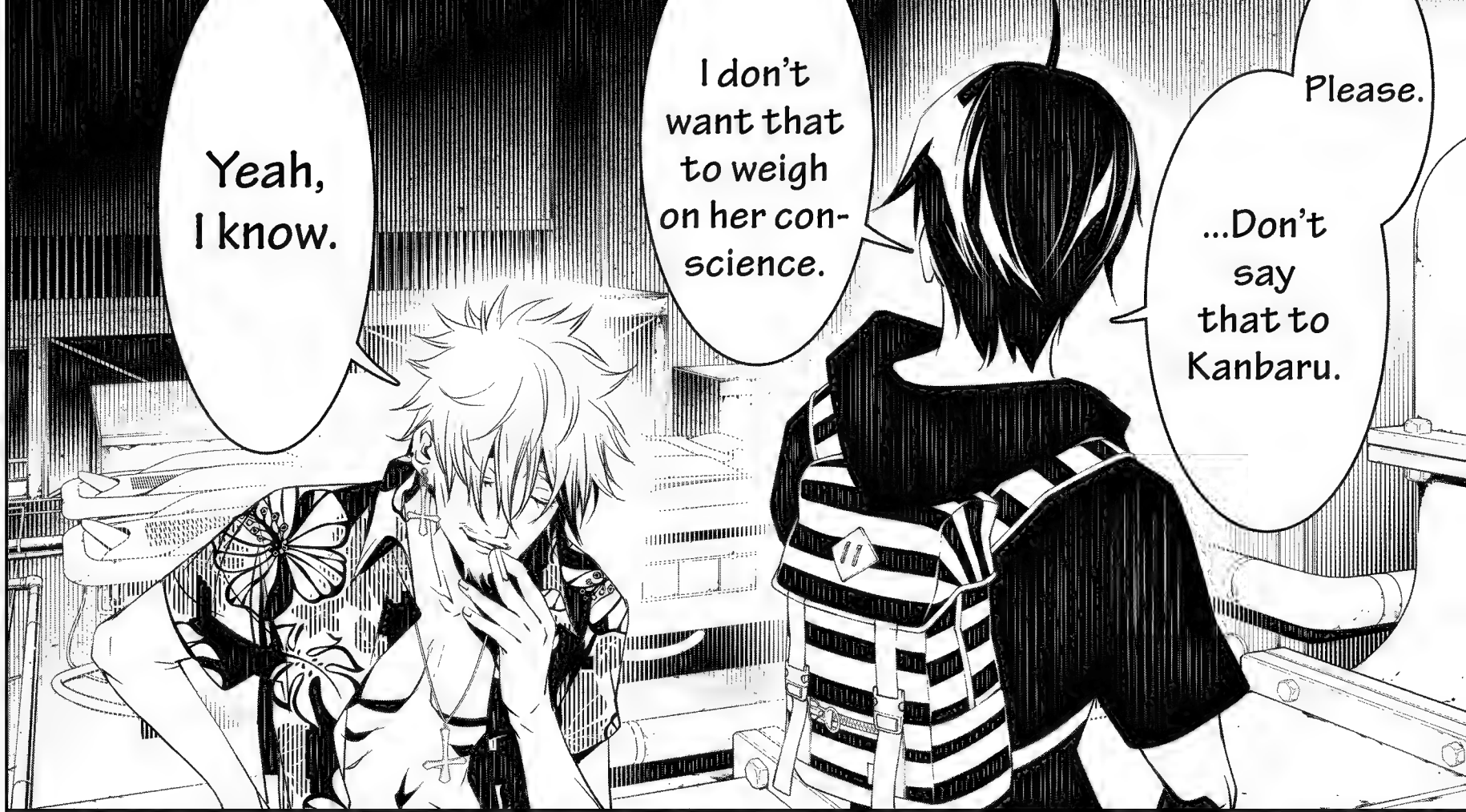


Maybe I just
can't see
it in such a
strict light...

...He...
might
be right.



...

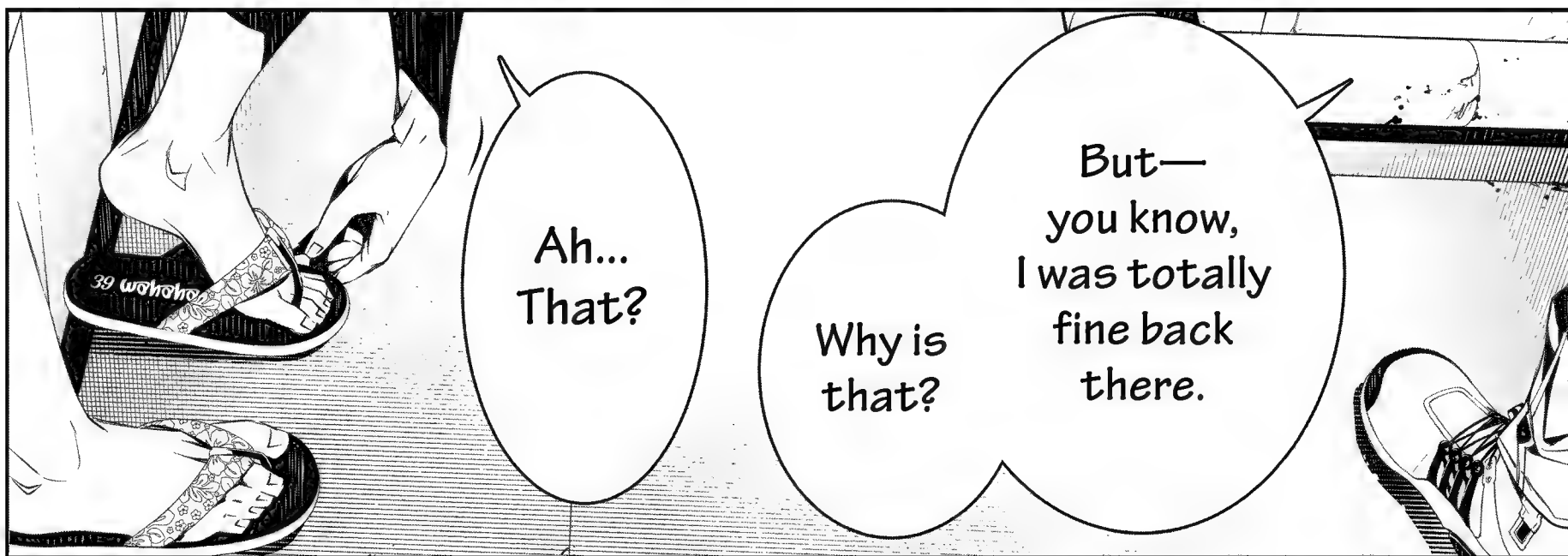


Yeah,
I know.

I don't
want that
to weigh
on her con-
science.

Please.

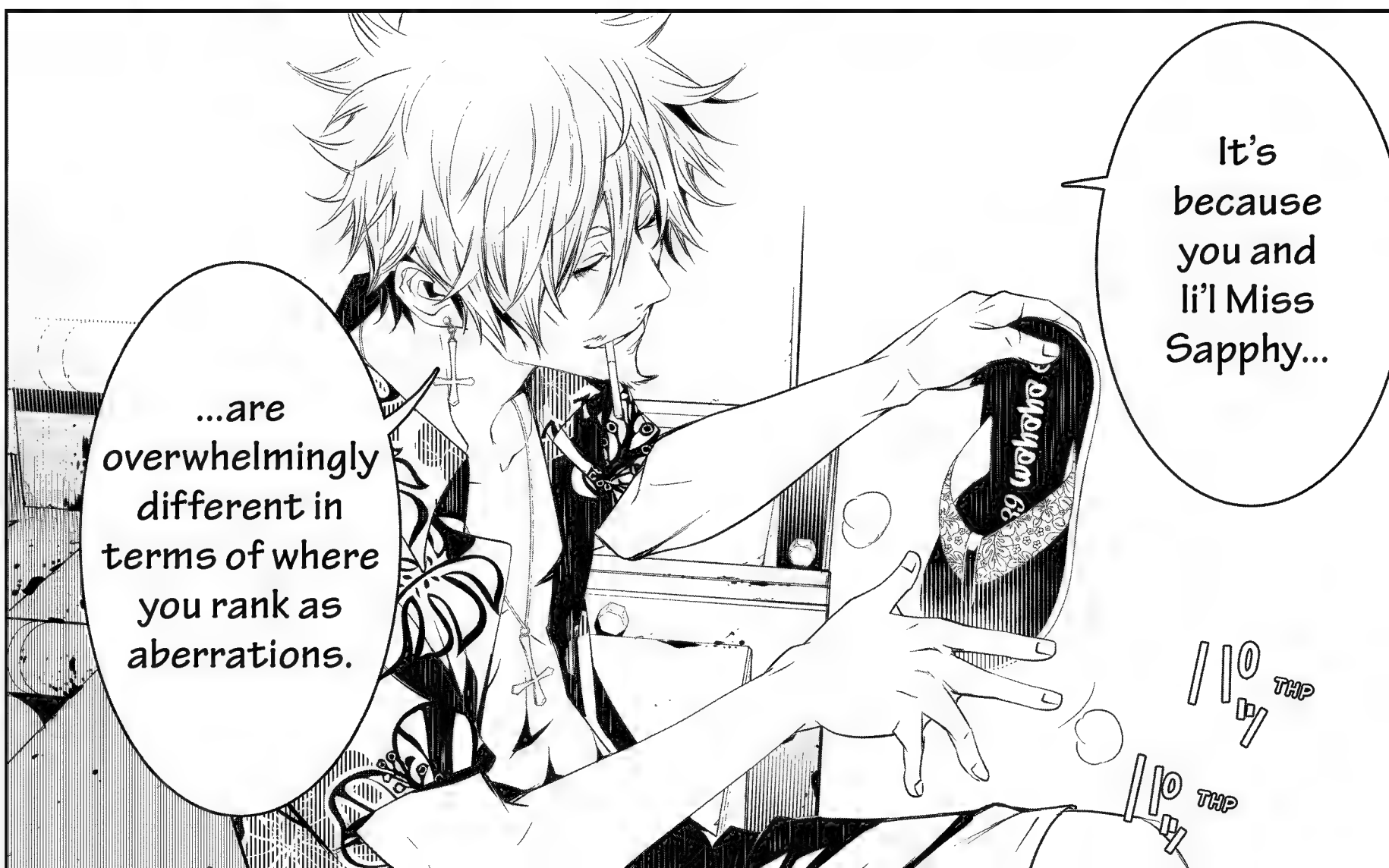
...Don't
say
that to
Kanbaru.



Ah...
That?

Why is
that?

But—
you know,
I was totally
fine back
there.



...are
overwhelmingly
different in
terms of where
you rank as
aberrations.

It's
because
you and
li'l Miss
Sapphy...

// 10 THP
// 10 THP

...I
might
let
myself be
bothered
by
something
crawling
around my
feet, even
if it's this
tiny.



As a city
slicker...



...?

But a rough
and tumble guy
like you would never
be bothered by
a mere insect—
that's what
I mean.





How...

...should
I even
react to
that...?

...



Let's
get back
on track,
Araragi.

Seems
like we got
off-topic.



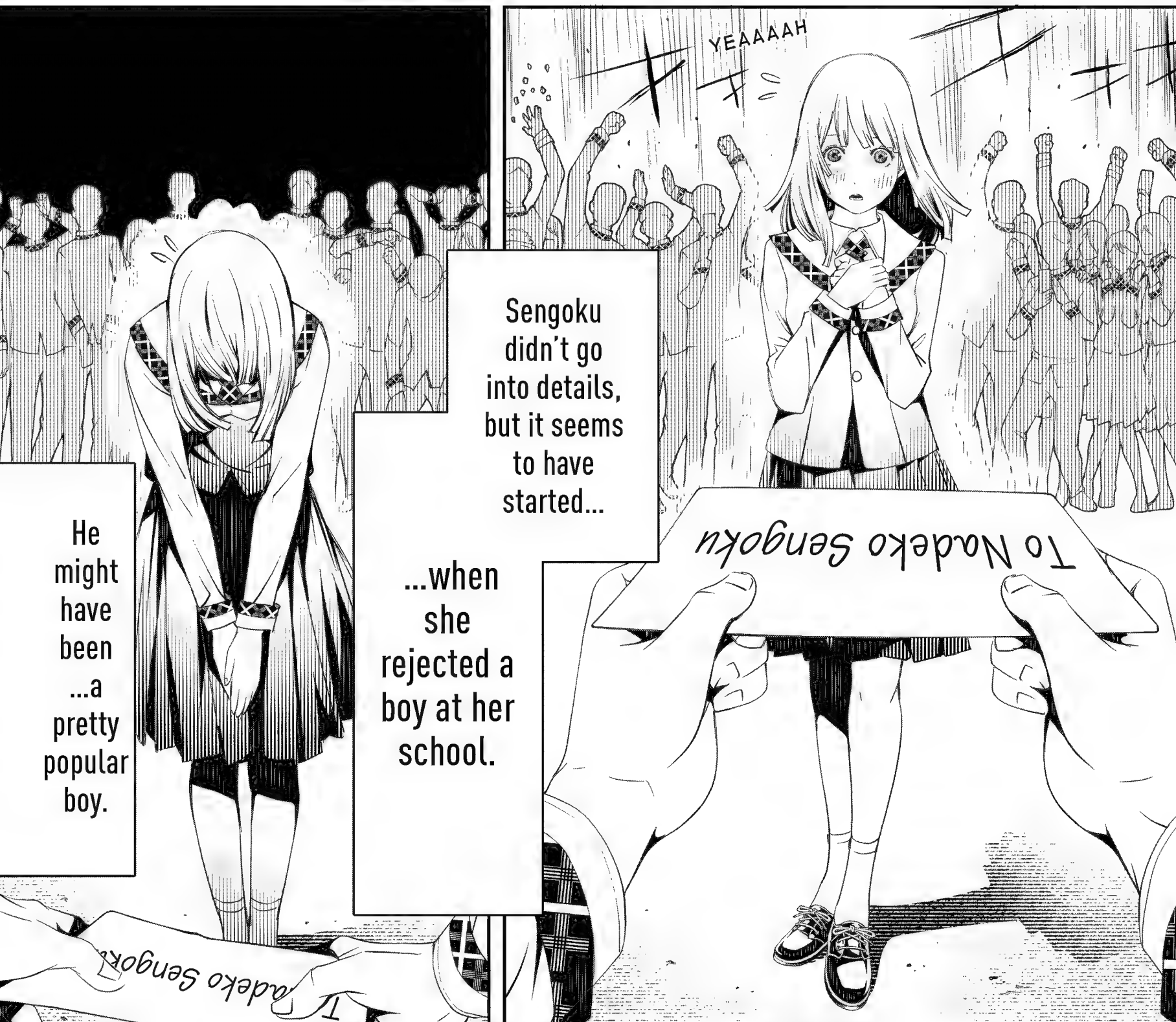
This Jagirinawa
aberration—

It sounds like a
pretty urgent
situation.

...stereo-
typical
middle
school
romantic
drama.

Based on
what I've
heard, it kind
of seems
like, well...

It
does
?



He
might
have
been
...a
pretty
popular
boy.

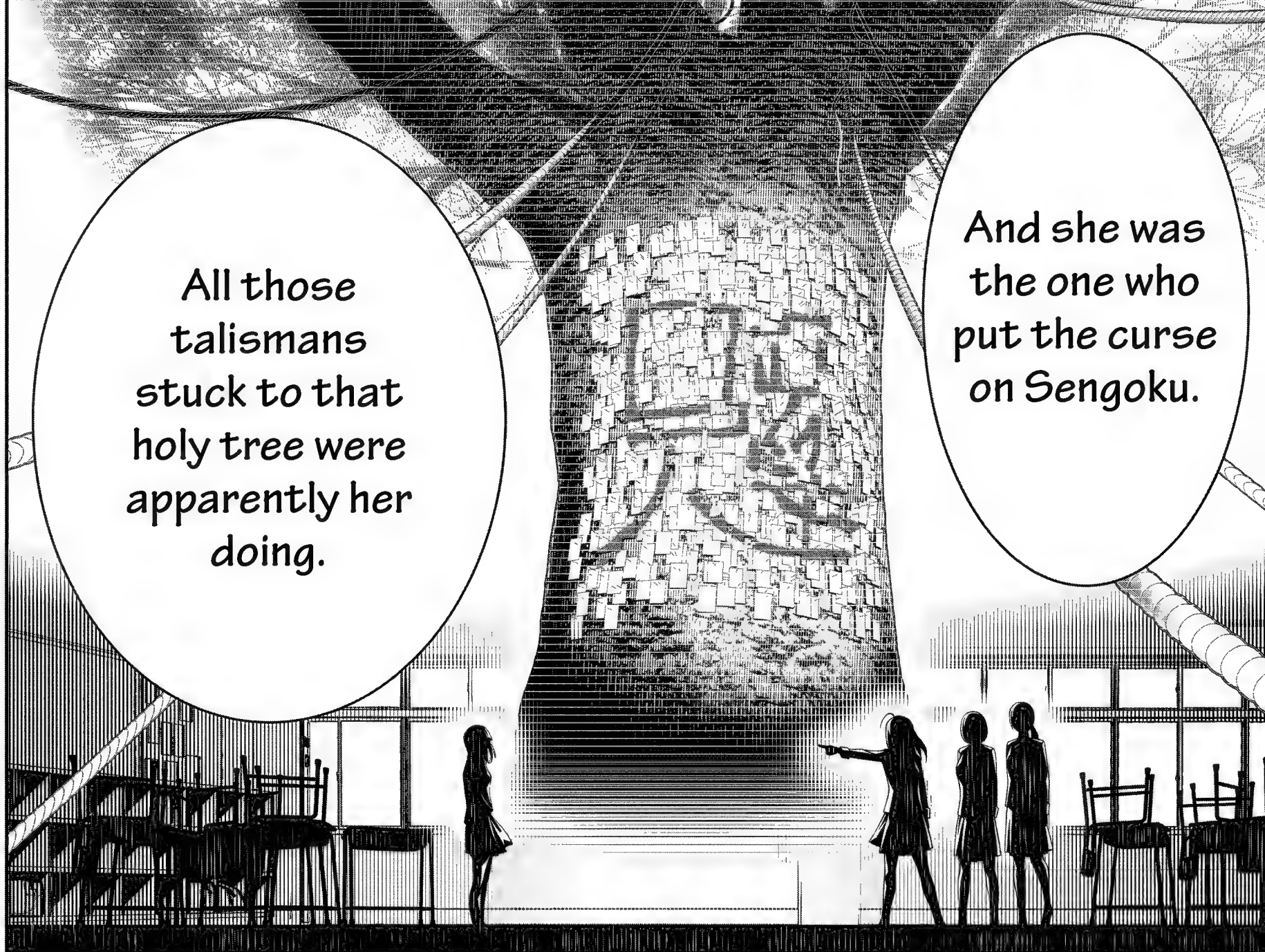
Sengoku
didn't go
into details,
but it seems
to have
started...

...when
she
rejected a
boy at her
school.

To Nadeko Sengoku

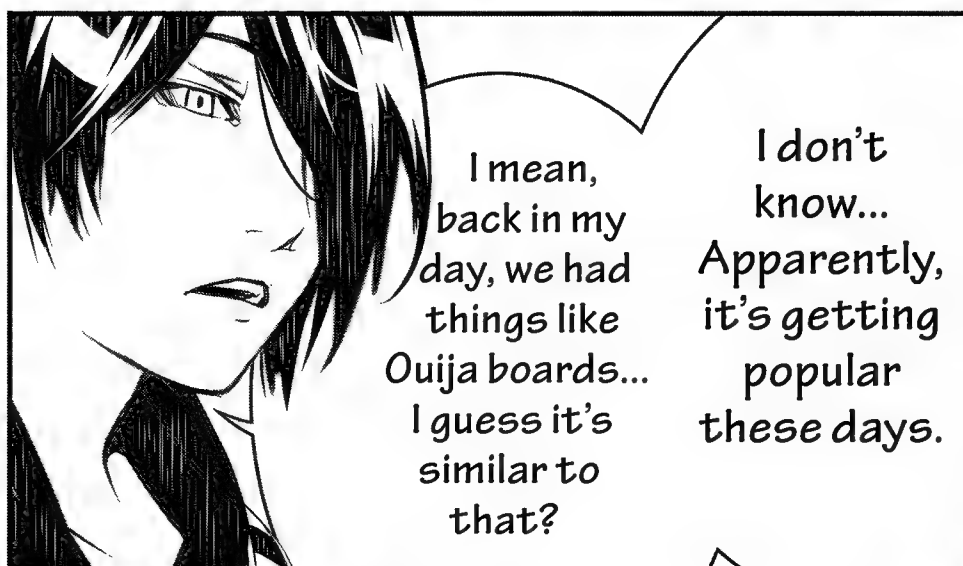
...Well,
I guess
I should
say *former*
friend.

But she also
has a friend
who liked
this boy...



All those
talismans
stuck to that
holy tree were
apparently her
doing.

And she was
the one who
put the curse
on Sengoku.



I mean,
back in my
day, we had
things like
Ouija boards...
I guess it's
similar to
that?

I don't
know...
Apparently,
it's getting
popular
these days.

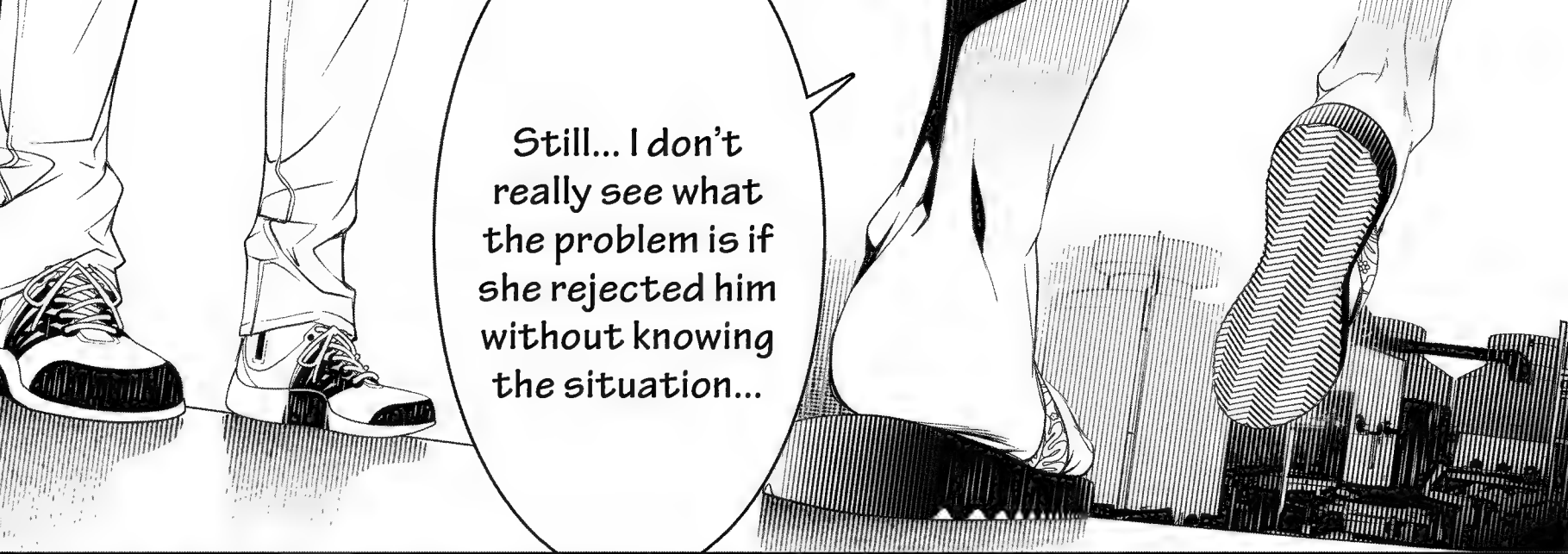


She
must've
been
pretty
serious
about it.

...A middle
schooler—
and all over
something
like that...



...
Hmm
...



Still... I don't really see what the problem is if she rejected him without knowing the situation...

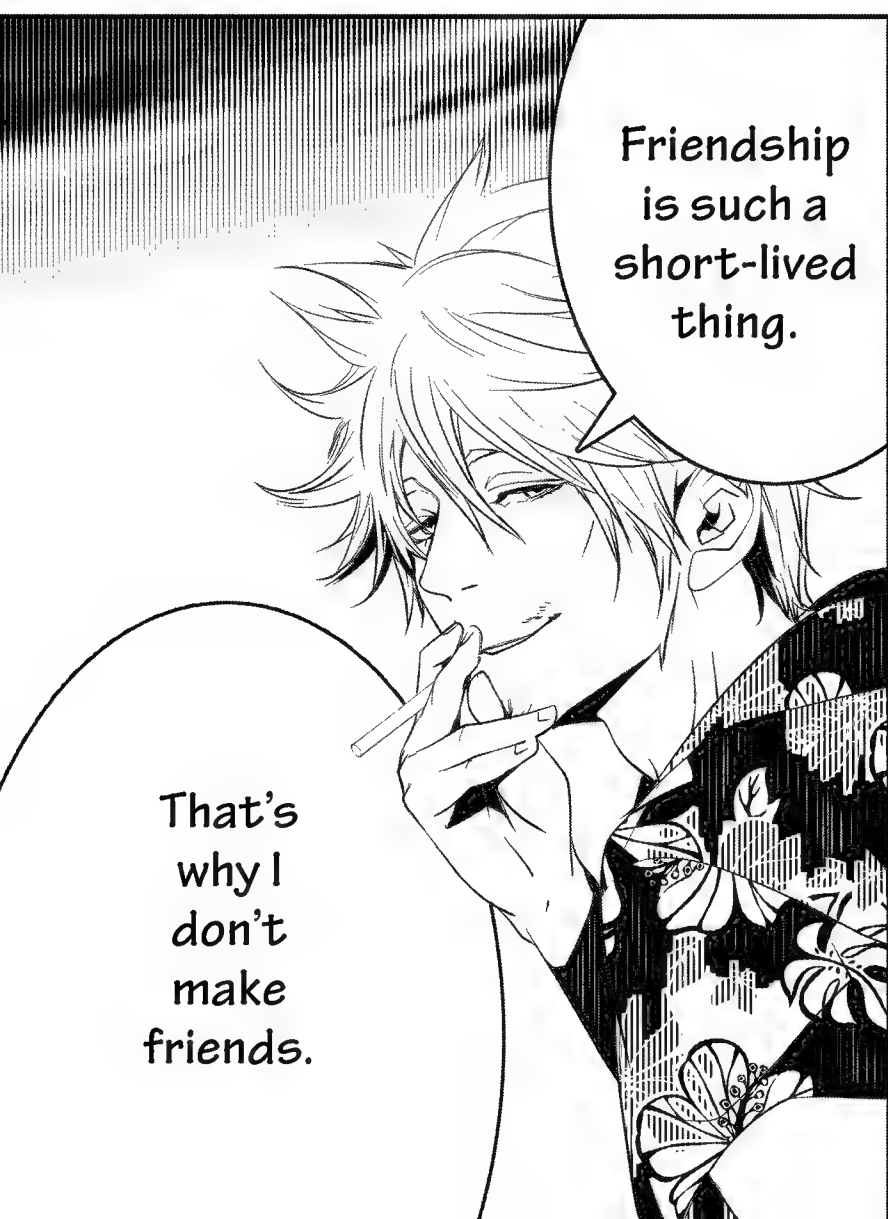


...is that she was furious to see a boy she liked getting rejected.

It'd be like watching something you hold dear be treated like garbage, right?

It's hard to say.

What I think ...



That's why I don't make friends.

Friendship is such a short-lived thing.



That could easily become a good enough reason for one woman to curse another.

...Or at least that's what Kanbaru said.

I don't really get it myself.



"You can remove a snake curse by killing snakes"—smells fishy to me.

I'm not sure how legitimate it was, of course.

She says she was reading that book to figure out how to undo the curse.



That page alone was so well-worn that the book naturally opened to it.

...That's how I was able to figure it out so quickly myself.

Apparently, she read it again and again—practically every day.



No.

Repelling a Jagirinawa by cutting up snakes isn't wrong.

It's the
nawa of the
Jagirinawa—
rope.

Really
?

What
?

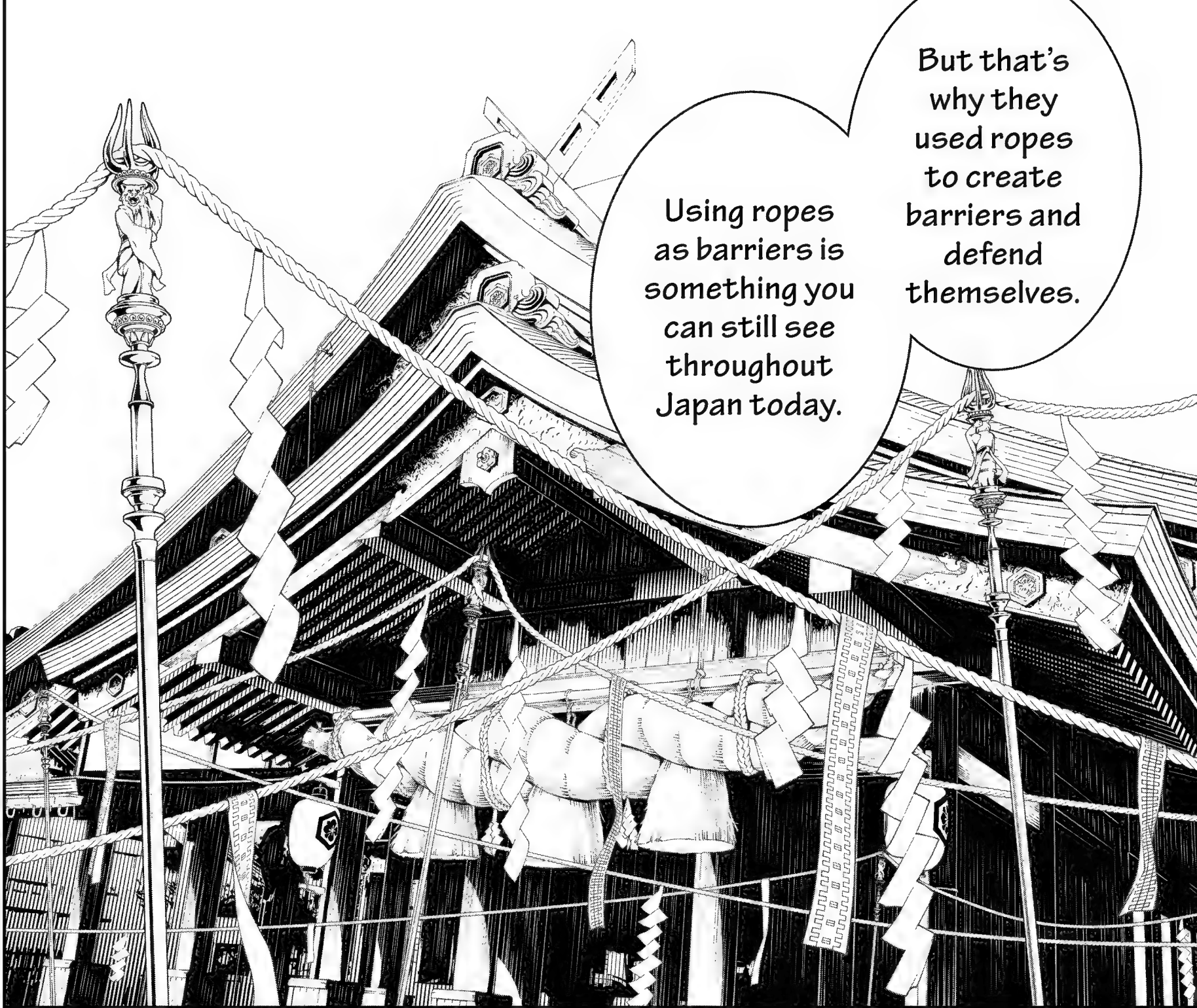
What's
important
here isn't
the snake,
though.

Some
people say
those aren't
ornamental—
they have
a deep
shamanistic
meaning to
them.

You know how
Jomon-era clay
pottery has
distinct rope
patterns,
right?

...That's
how I was
able to
figure it out
so quickly
myself.

People in those
days believed that
sickness was caused
by *bad things*
inside of food.



Using ropes
as barriers is
something you
can still see
throughout
Japan today.

But that's
why they
used ropes
to create
barriers and
defend
themselves.



*It uses
a barrier
to bind.*

*it's
for
enclos-
ing.*

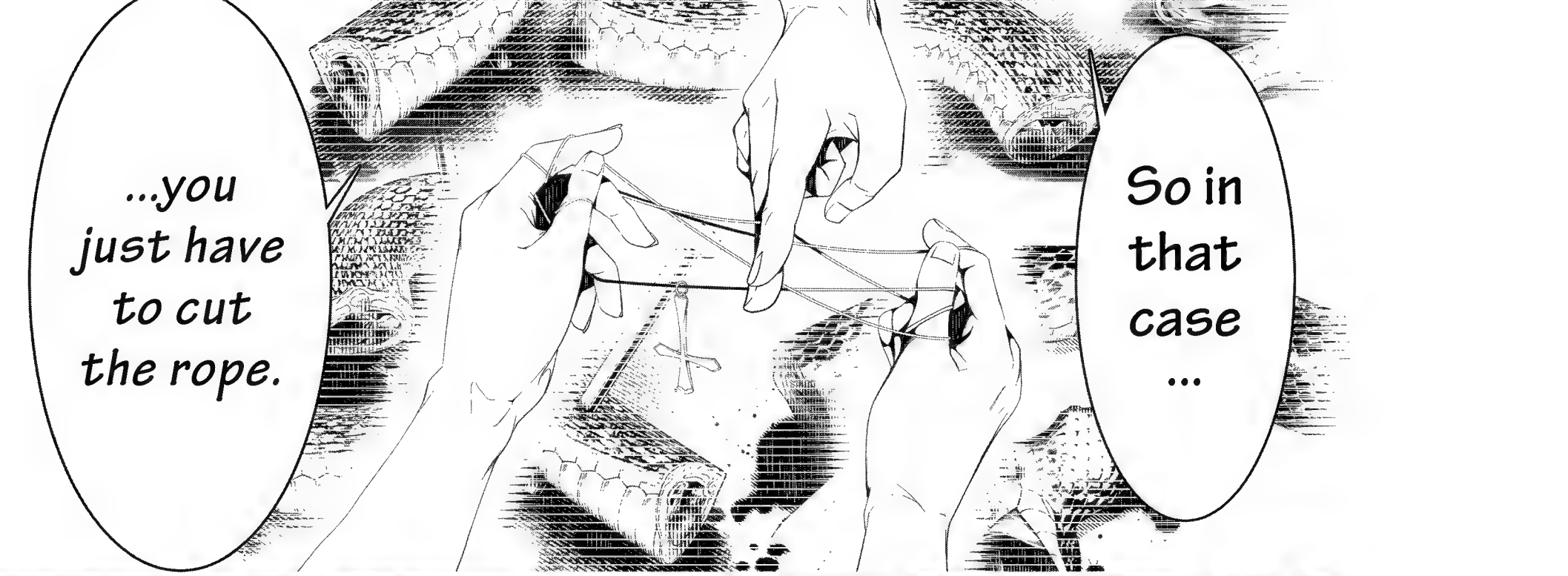
*it's
not for
pro-
tecting,*

*In
other
words,*

But instead
of being used
for defense,
it's a curse
that uses it
offensively.

The
Jagirinawa
makes use
of that
system—





...you
just have
to cut
the rope.

So in
that
case
...



I wanna say
I tossed it
somewhere
around
here...

Um...



This.

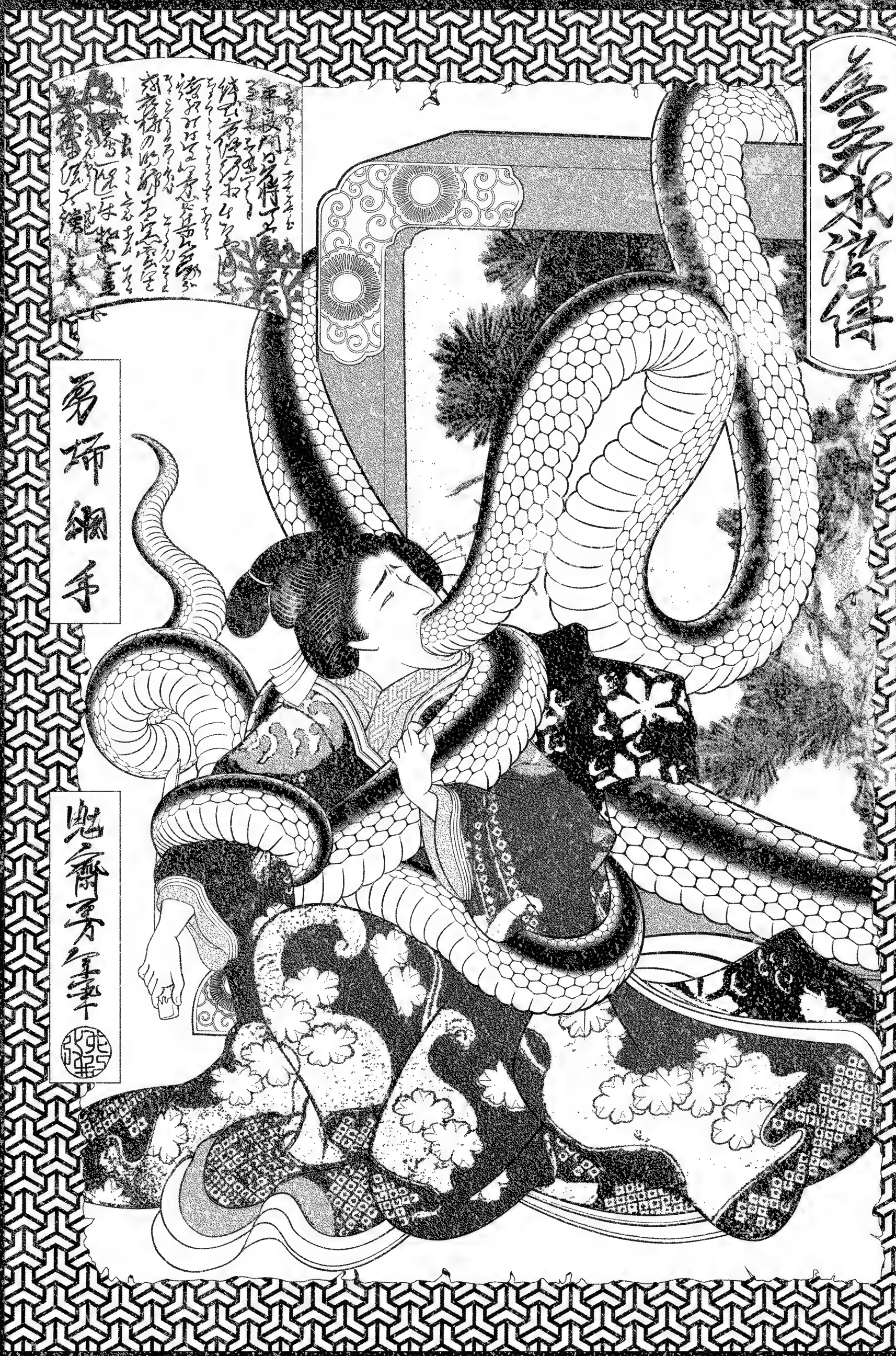
Oh.

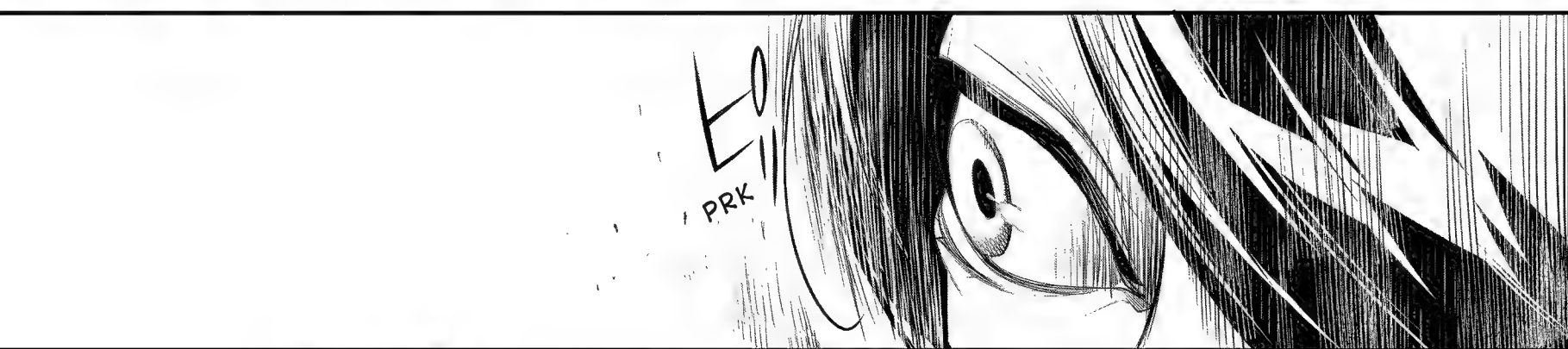
多岐求道傳

平賀門下弟子名
多岐求道傳
此書乃多岐求道傳
之真本也
多岐求道傳
之真本也

勇師綱手

魁齋芳年筆





In this case,
it doesn't
matter how
much this middle
schooler, or
whoever it was
that placed
the curse,
understood.

*If it goes
any higher—
it's over
for her.*

This girl...
The snake
marks are
up to about
her neck,
right?

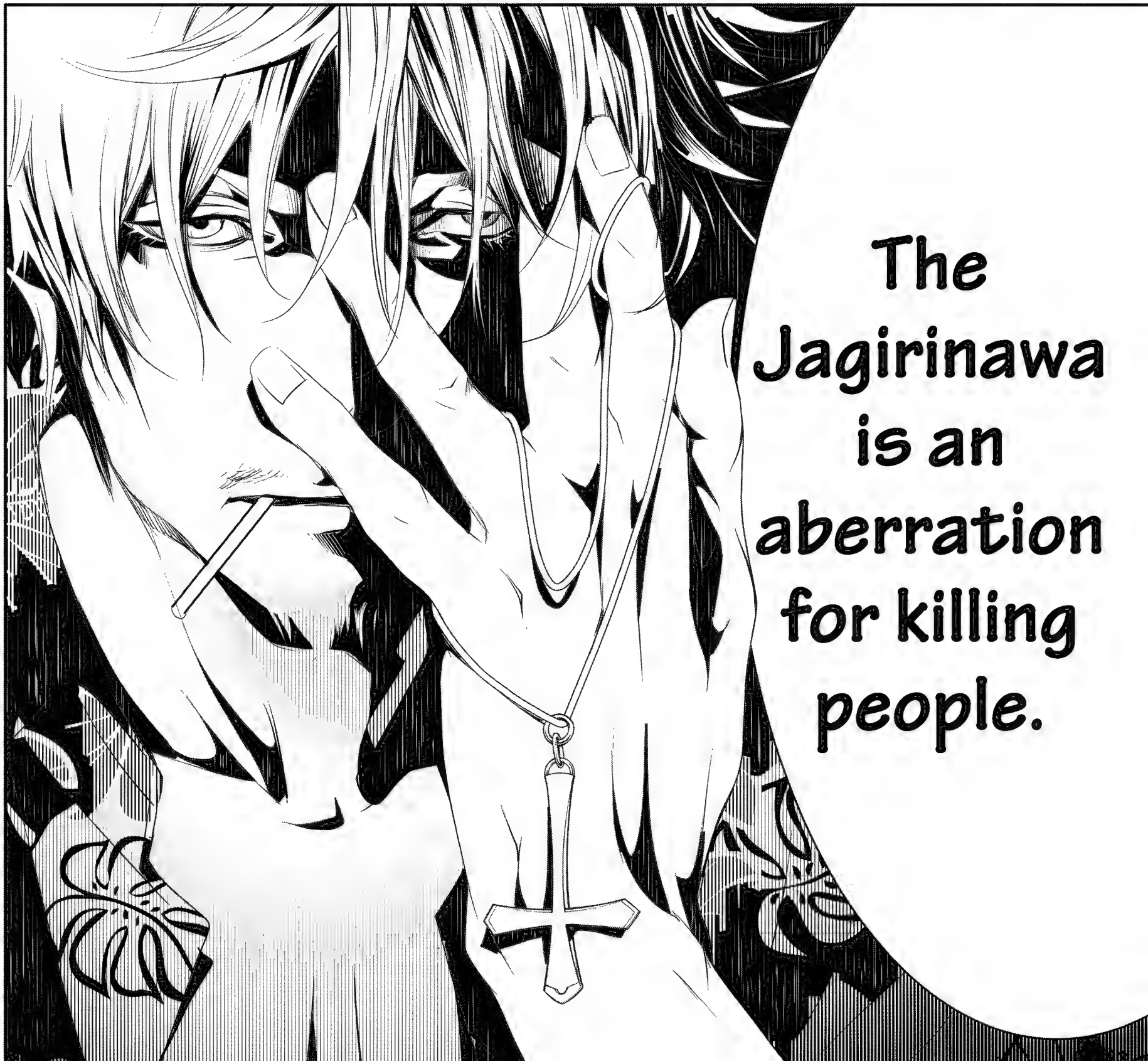




A
murderous
intent.

There is
a clear
malicious
intent
here—

No...



The
Jagirinawa
is an
aberration
for killing
people.

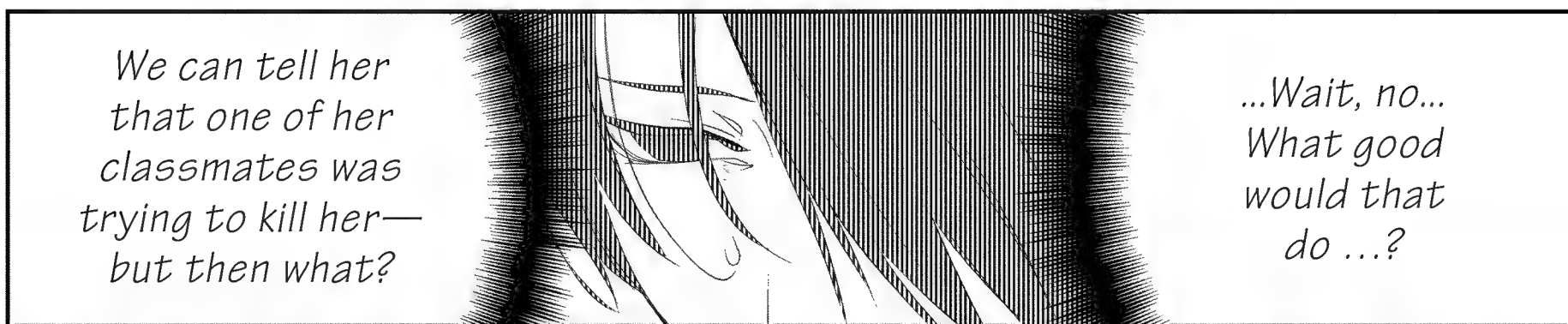


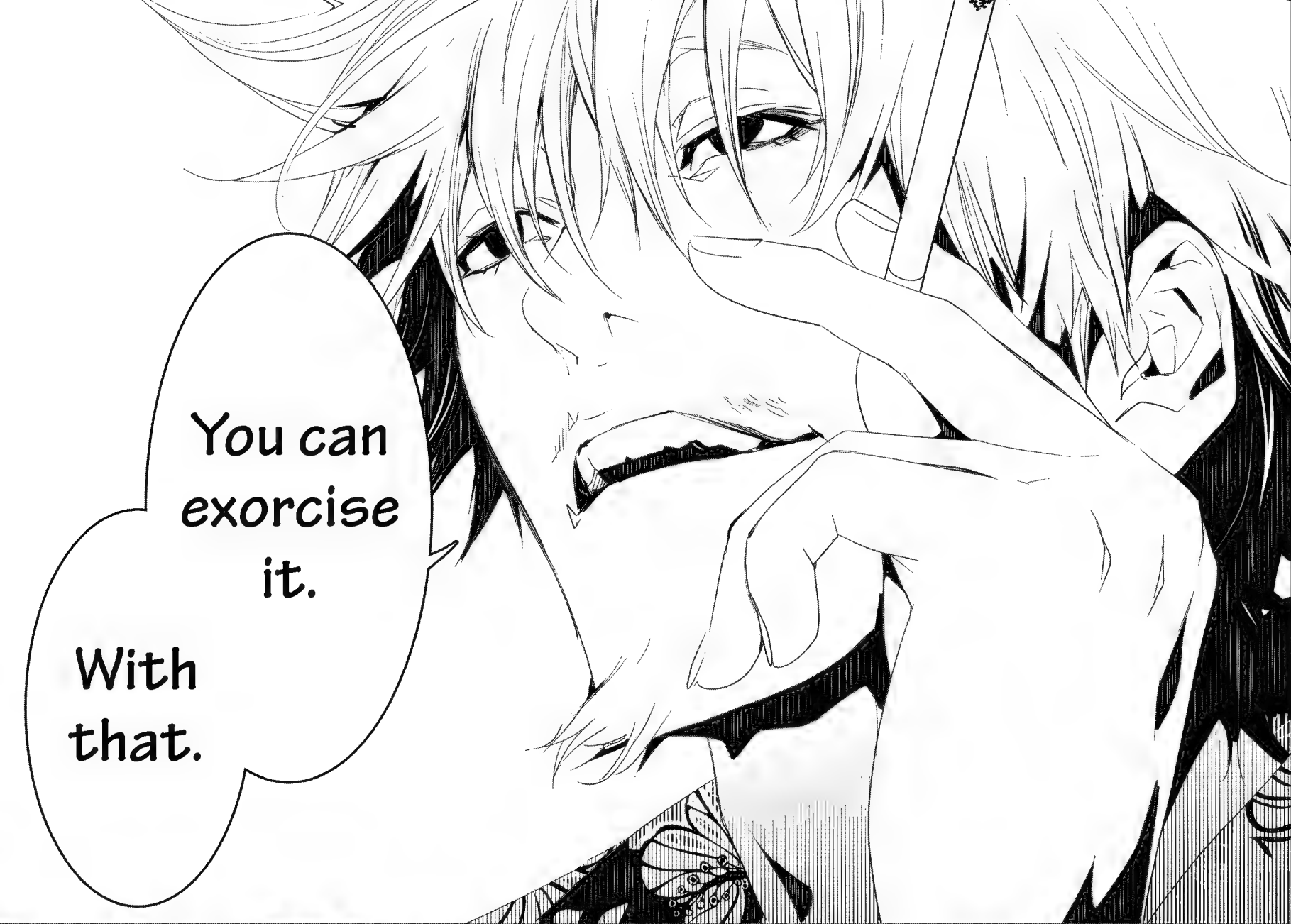
— !!

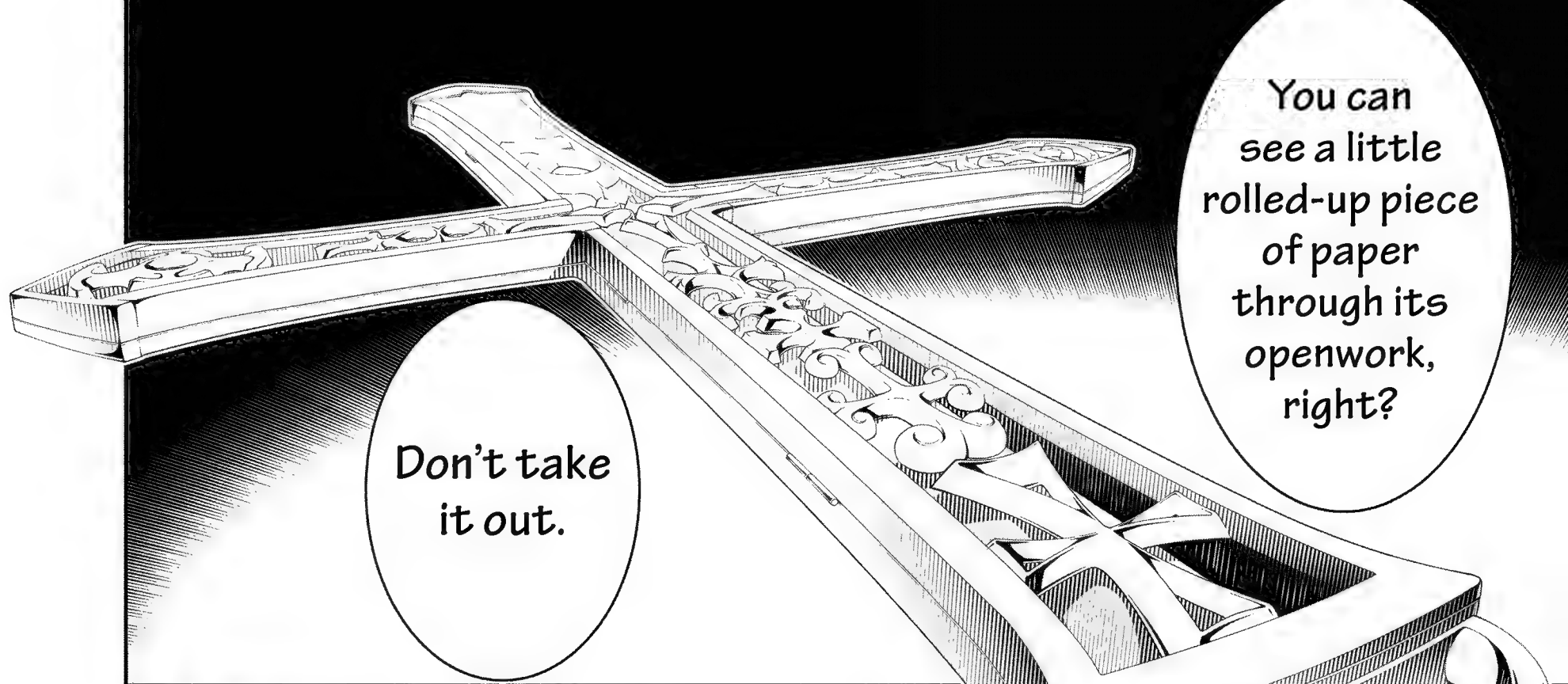


Killing
...?!

AN ABERRATION THAT KILLS







Don't take
it out.

You can
see a little
rolled-up piece
of paper
through its
openwork,
right?



It's
sort of a
powerful
amulet.
If it were
allowed to be
unsheathed—
it'd be
dangerous.

Just think
of it as the
scabbard
to a sword.

There's no
meaning in
the fact
that it's
a cross.
it's nothing
more than an
accessory.

**YOU WANT ME
TO USE THIS?!
I DON'T EVEN
KNOW HOW TO
PERFORM AN
EXORCISM!!**



**WAIT,
HOLD ON
A SEC-
OND!!**



She
really
trusts
you,
doesn't
she?

Missy
here—

She
wouldn't
strip all of
a sudden
in a man's
room
otherwise.

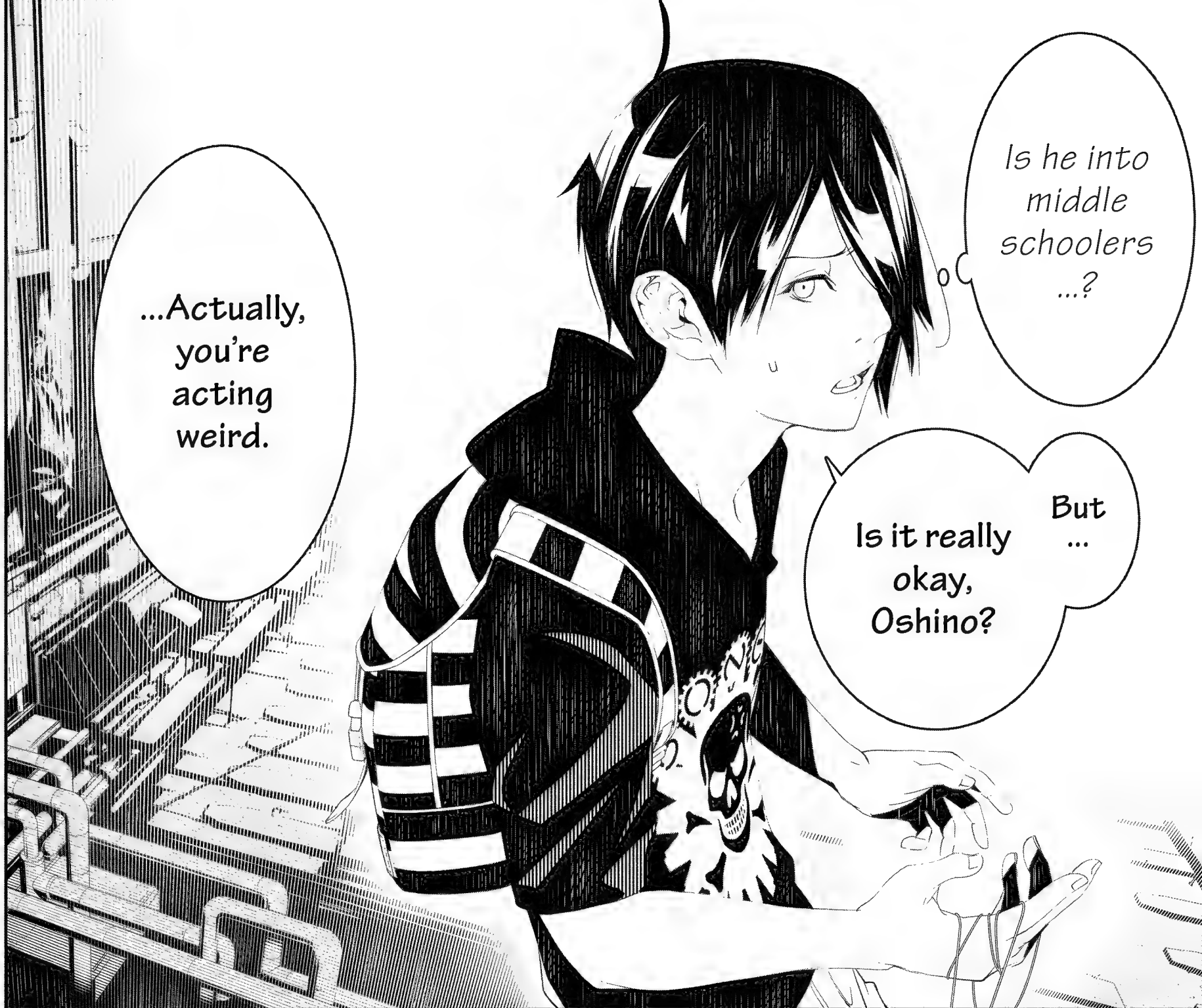
I can
teach you
that part.
So do your
best to learn
before you
head back.

Just
this once,
I actually
think you're
better
suited for
this job
than I am.

2!!

SORRY,
MEANT TO
SAY, "I ENVY
YOU," BIG
BROTHER
KOYOMI.

OH, HOW
I DETEST
YOU...

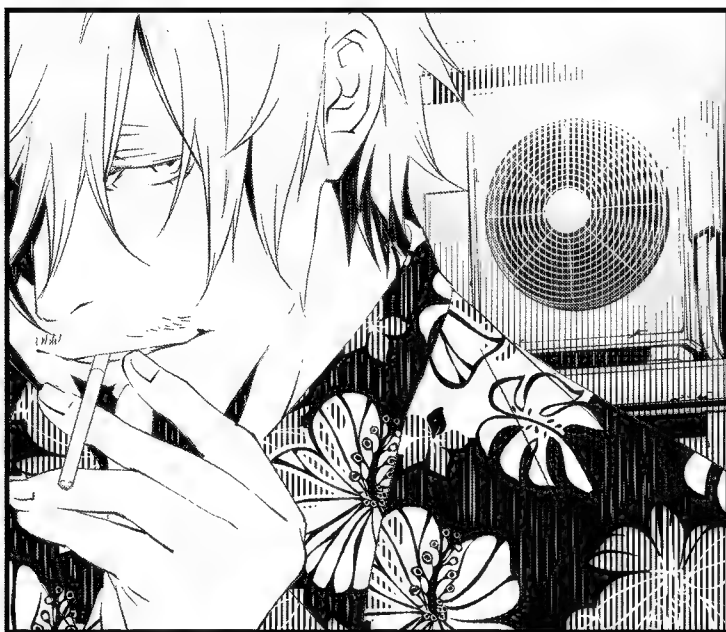


...Actually,
you're
acting
weird.

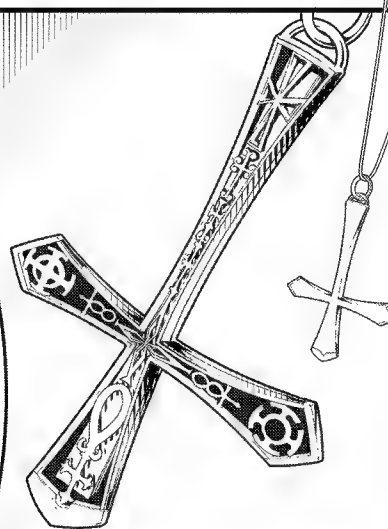
Is he into
middle
schoolers
...?

Is it really
okay,
Oshino?

But
...



You're
always
wearing
it around
your
neck.



This...
has to be
pretty
important
to you,
right?

You didn't launch
into a barrage
of references,
and I feel like you
eased up on your
usual mountain of
trivia, too.



You're
normally so
much more
pompous and
difficult.

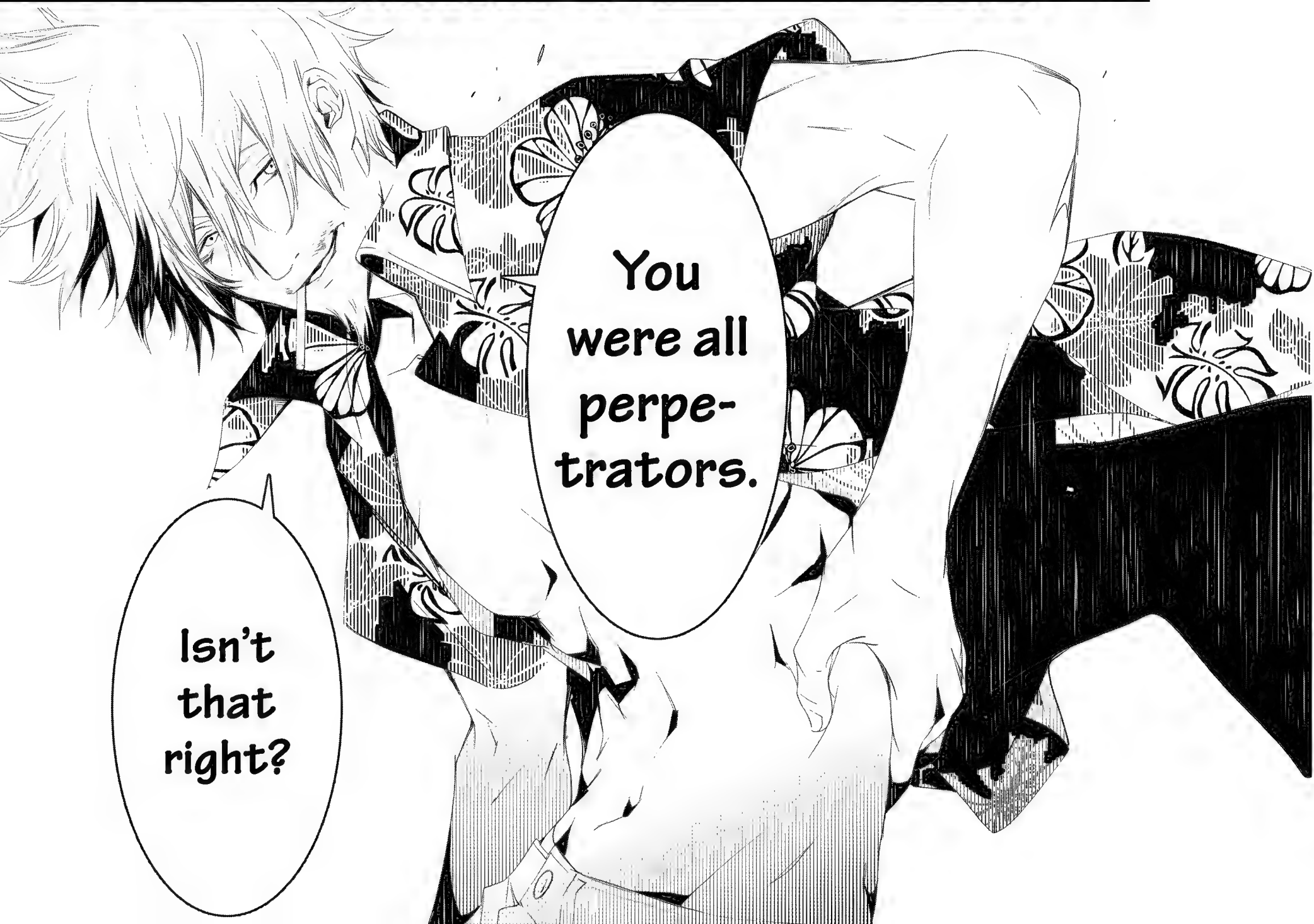
And
you're
being so
quick and
simple to
offer a
way to
purify
her.



Something
good happen
to you,
Araragi?

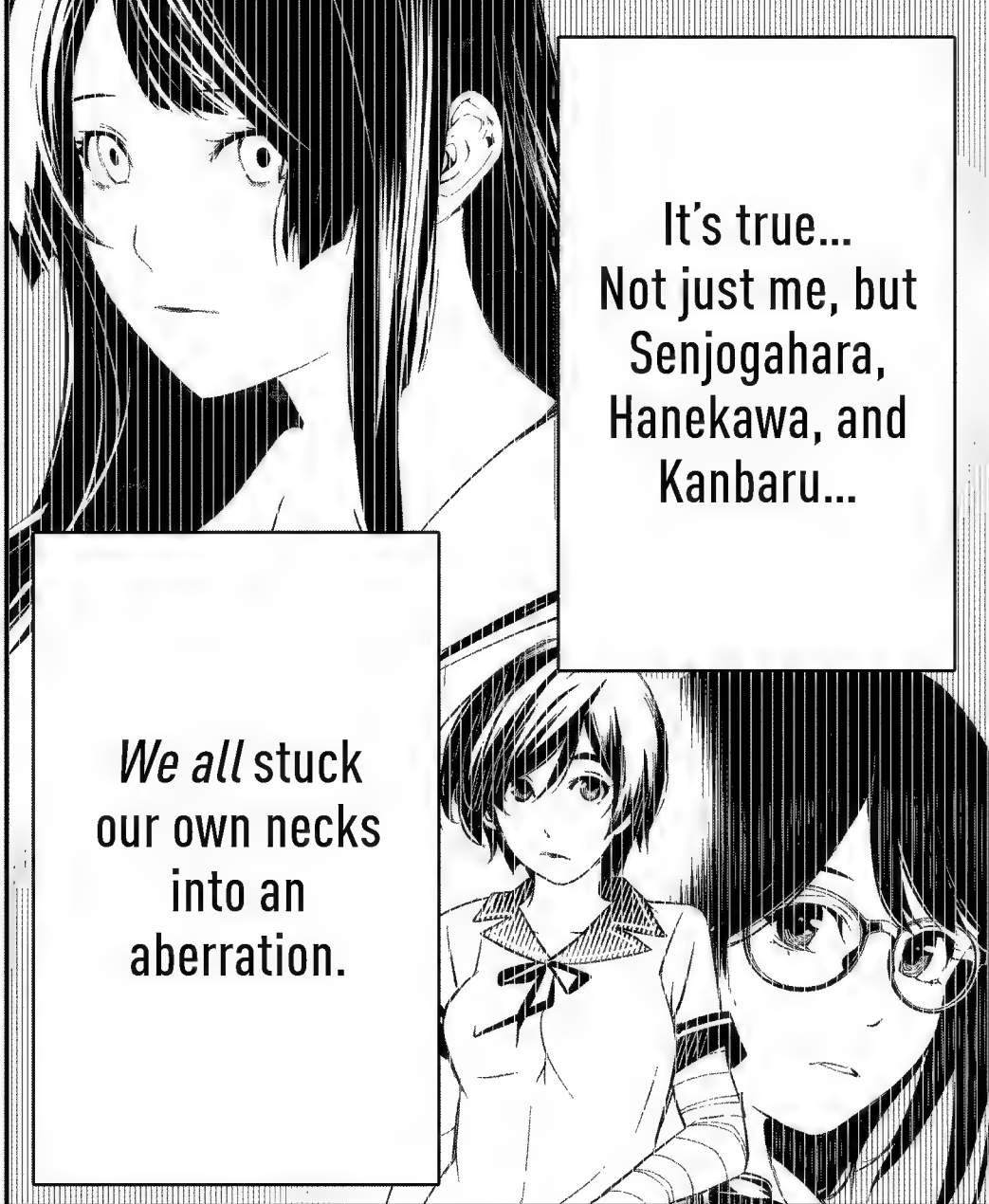
Oh, you just
love nagging
me, don't you?
You and I know
full well that
you'll complain
if I do pile on
the trivia.

Don't tell me
you're not being
serious about
this now that
I don't owe you
anything.



Isn't
that
right?

You
were all
perpe-
trators.



*We all stuck
our own necks
into an
aberration.*

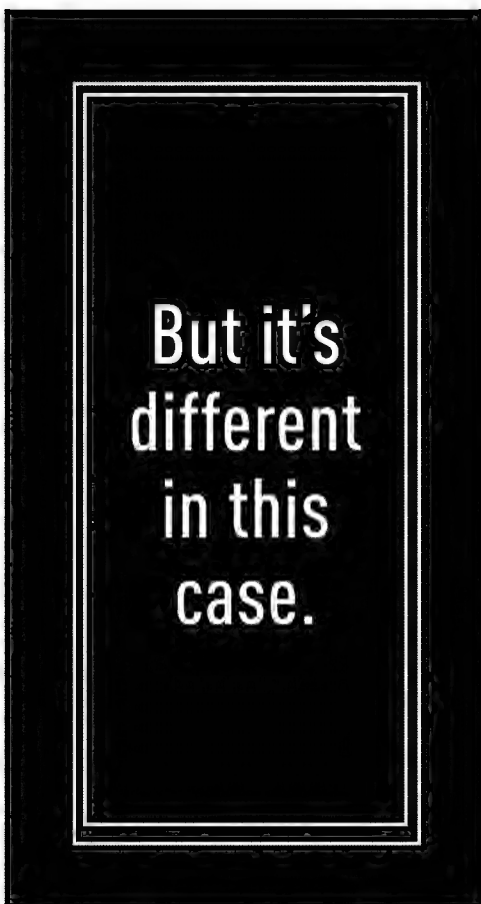
It's true...
Not just me, but
Senjogahara,
Hanekawa, and
Kanbaru...



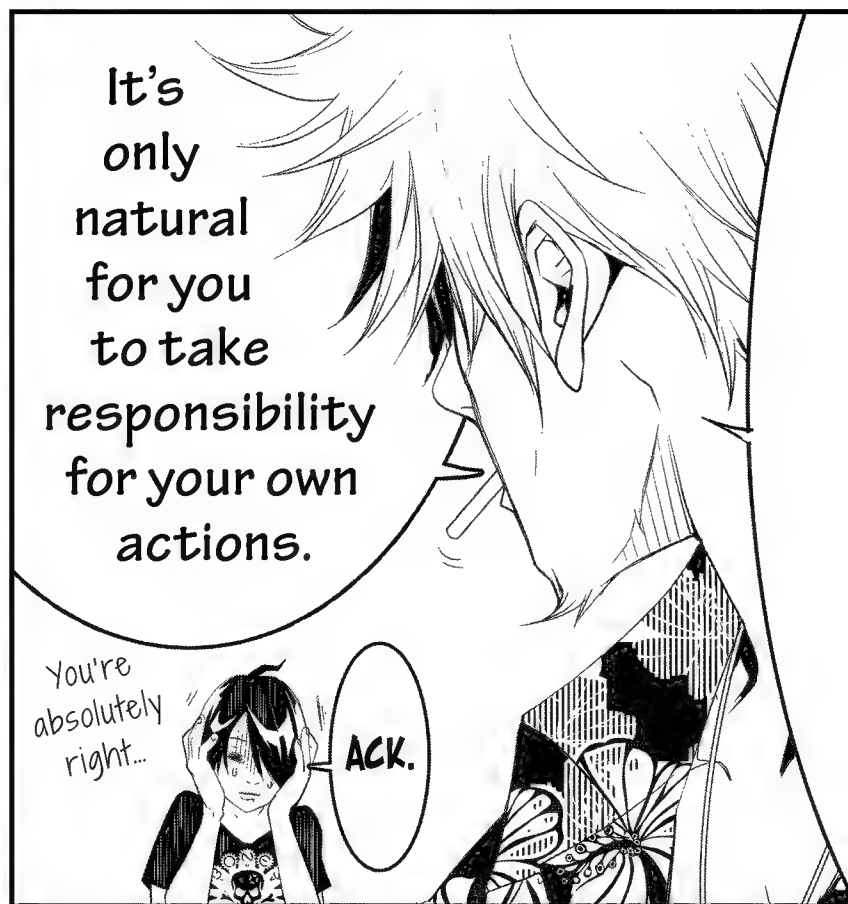
Ah...

...!!

So that's what it is.



But it's
different
in this
case.

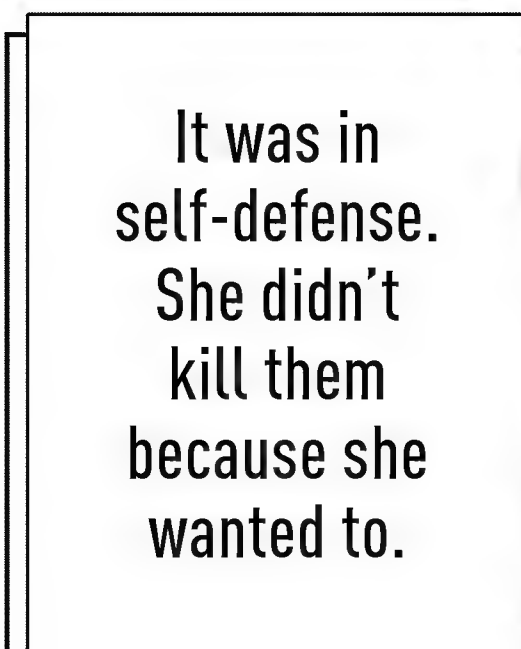


It's
only
natural
for you
to take
responsibility
for your own
actions.

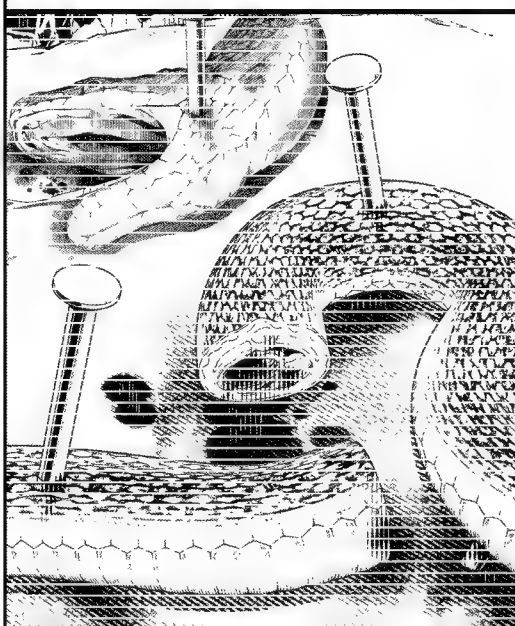
You're
absolutely
right...

ACK.

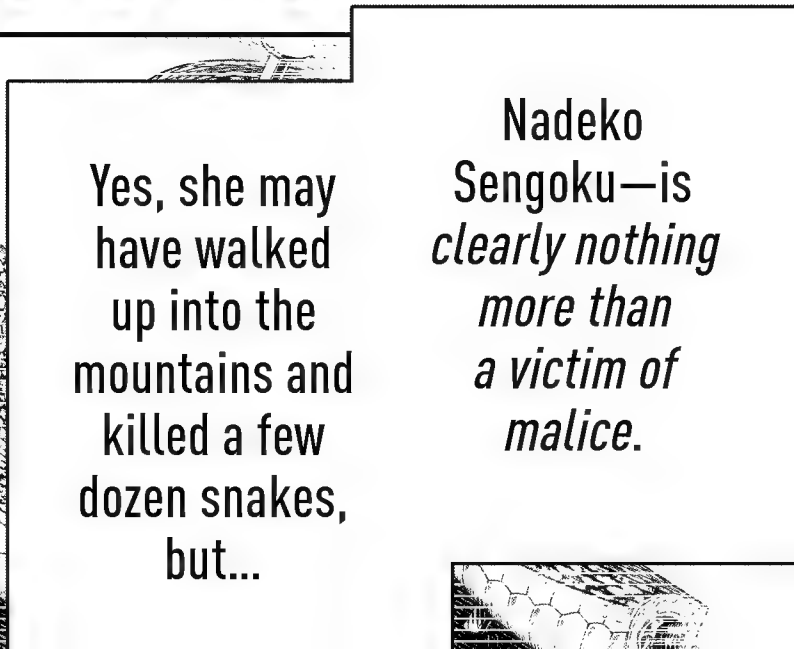
You could say
that you were
all complicit
with your
aberrations.
And you caused
a lot of people
trouble by
doing so.
Am I wrong?



It was in
self-defense.
She didn't
kill them
because she
wanted to.



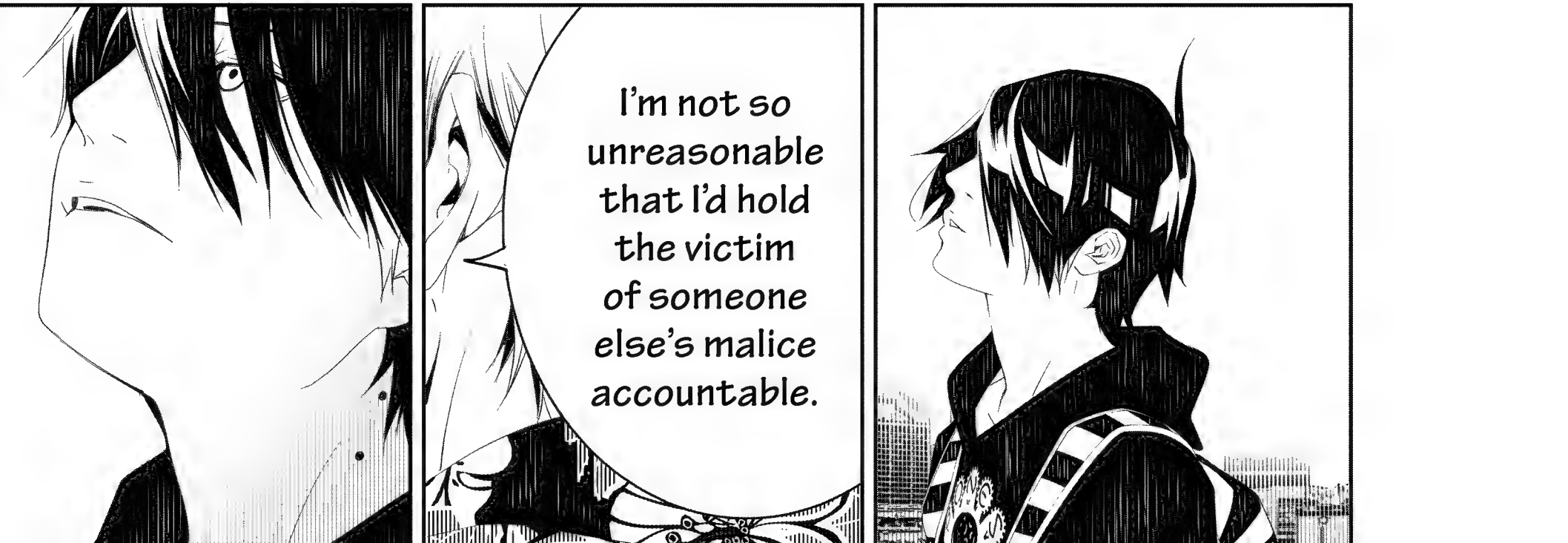
Yes, she may
have walked
up into the
mountains and
killed a few
dozen snakes,
but...



Nadeko
Sengoku—is
*clearly nothing
more than
a victim of
malice.*



What
people
like that
need—
is to be
saved.



I'm not so
unreasonable
that I'd hold
the victim
of someone
else's malice
accountable.



Sorry
'bout
that.

All this time,
I thought you were
acting that way
to be mean...
about all kinds
of things.



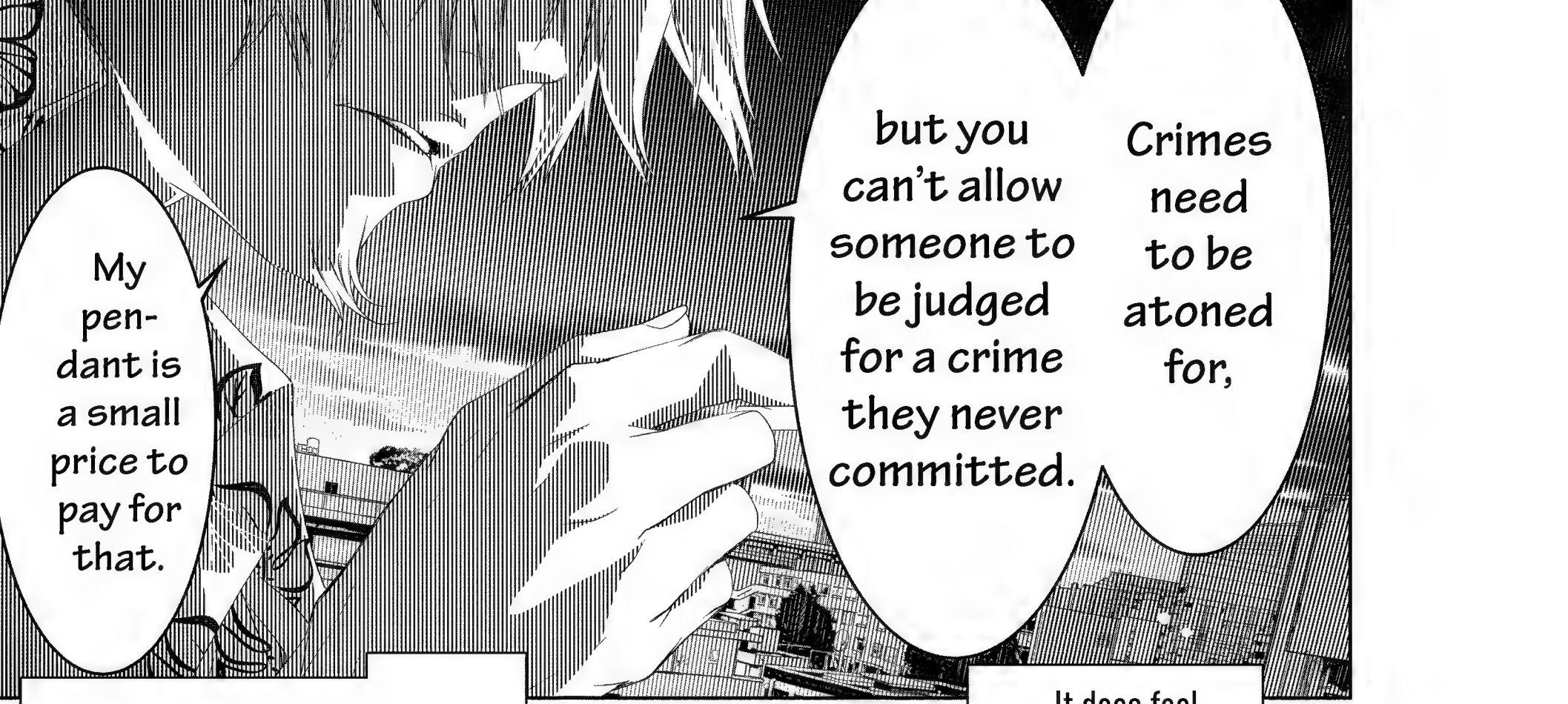
I'm
sorry,
Oshi-
no.



...
Okay.

It's fine.
This can be the
change left over
from the work you
and Miss Sapphy
did for me.

Missy doesn't
need to do a
thing for me.



My pendant is a small price to pay for that.

but you can't allow someone to be judged for a crime they never committed.

Crimes need to be atoned for,

I feel like... maybe we finally understand one another for the first time.

Oshino.

Yeah, you're right.

...It does feel like you're playing favorites by going this far, but...

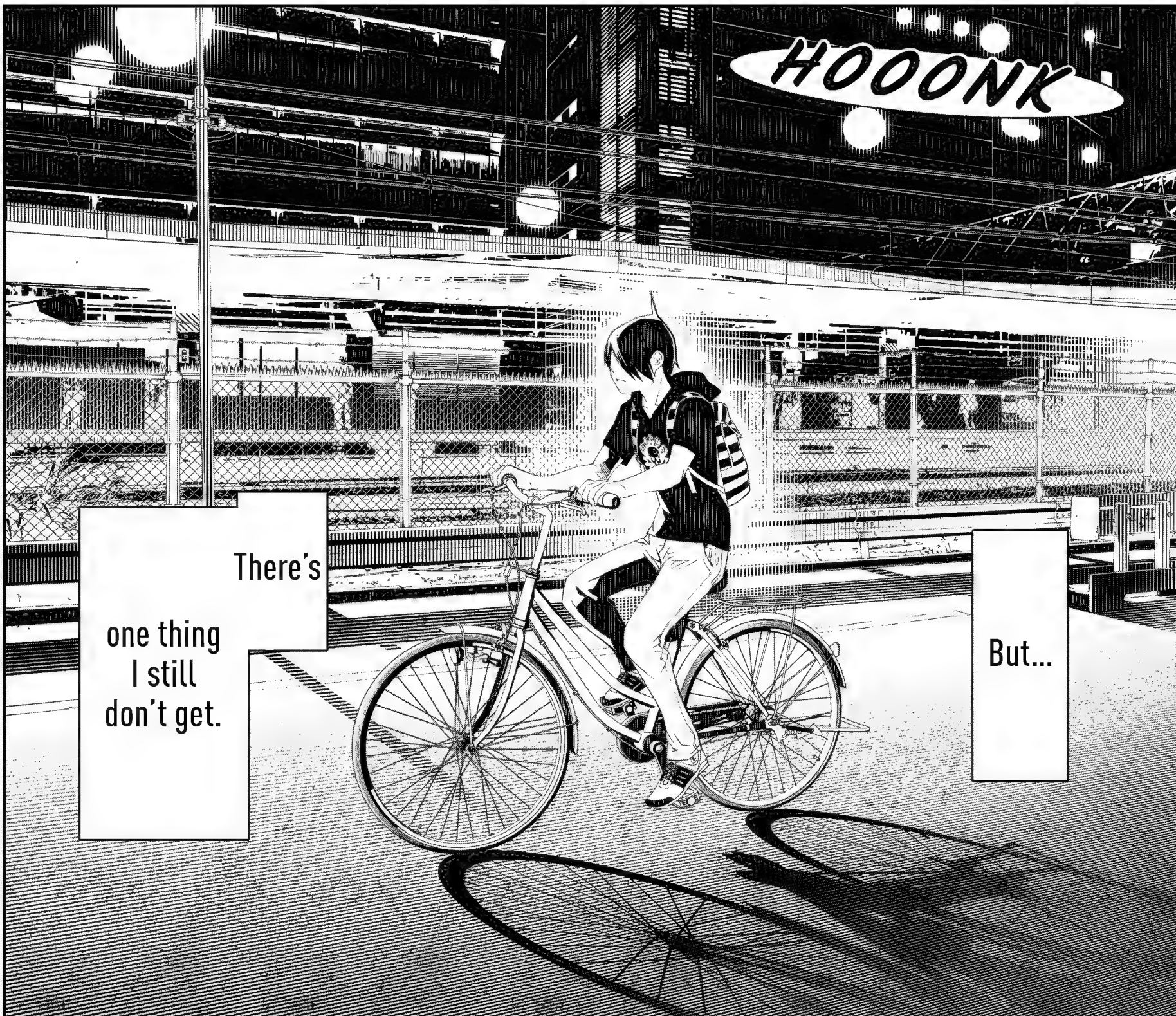
I see ...



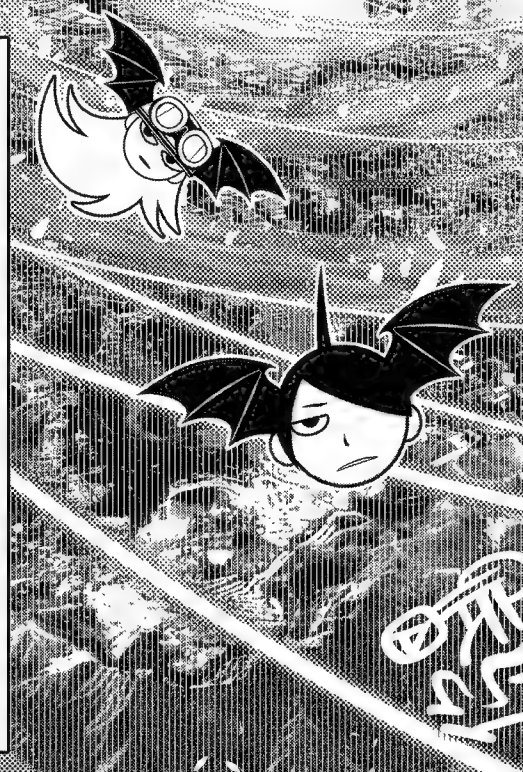
Middle schoolers.

I mean—

They really are great.



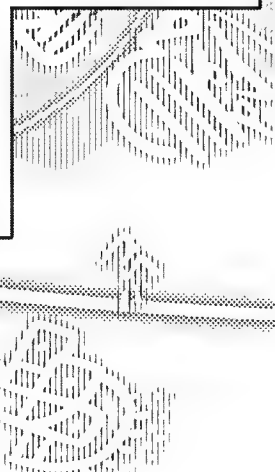
Wouldn't the world be filled with more of these kinds of major disturbances if it was this simple to curse someone?



a total amateur, in other words. Even if you take into account my existence and Shinobu's, would it really be that easy to make it all go right?

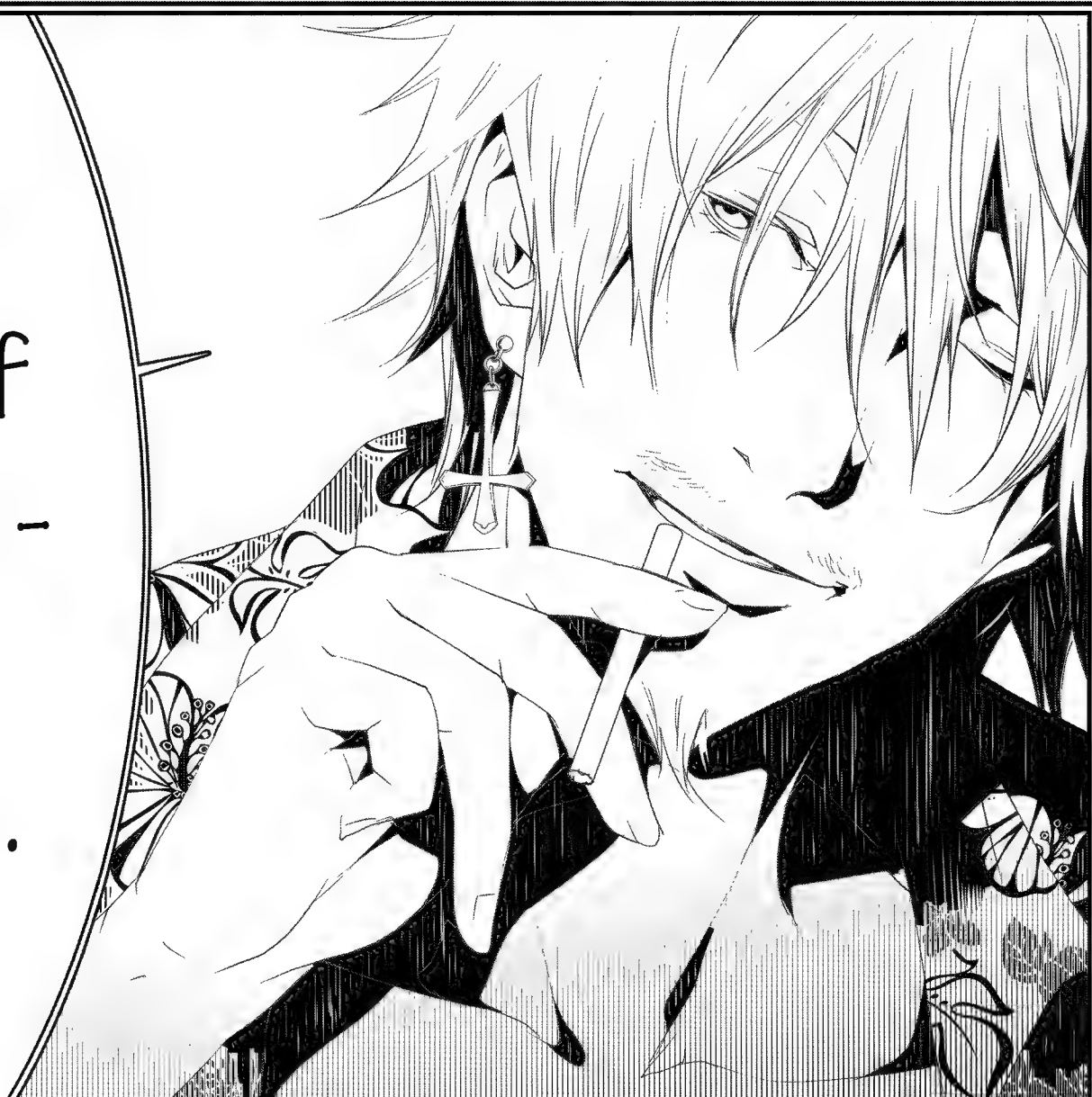
But the one who placed the curse on Sengoku was just one of her classmates—

Summoning a Jagirinawa seems to be a fairly high-level technique.



Good question, Araragi.

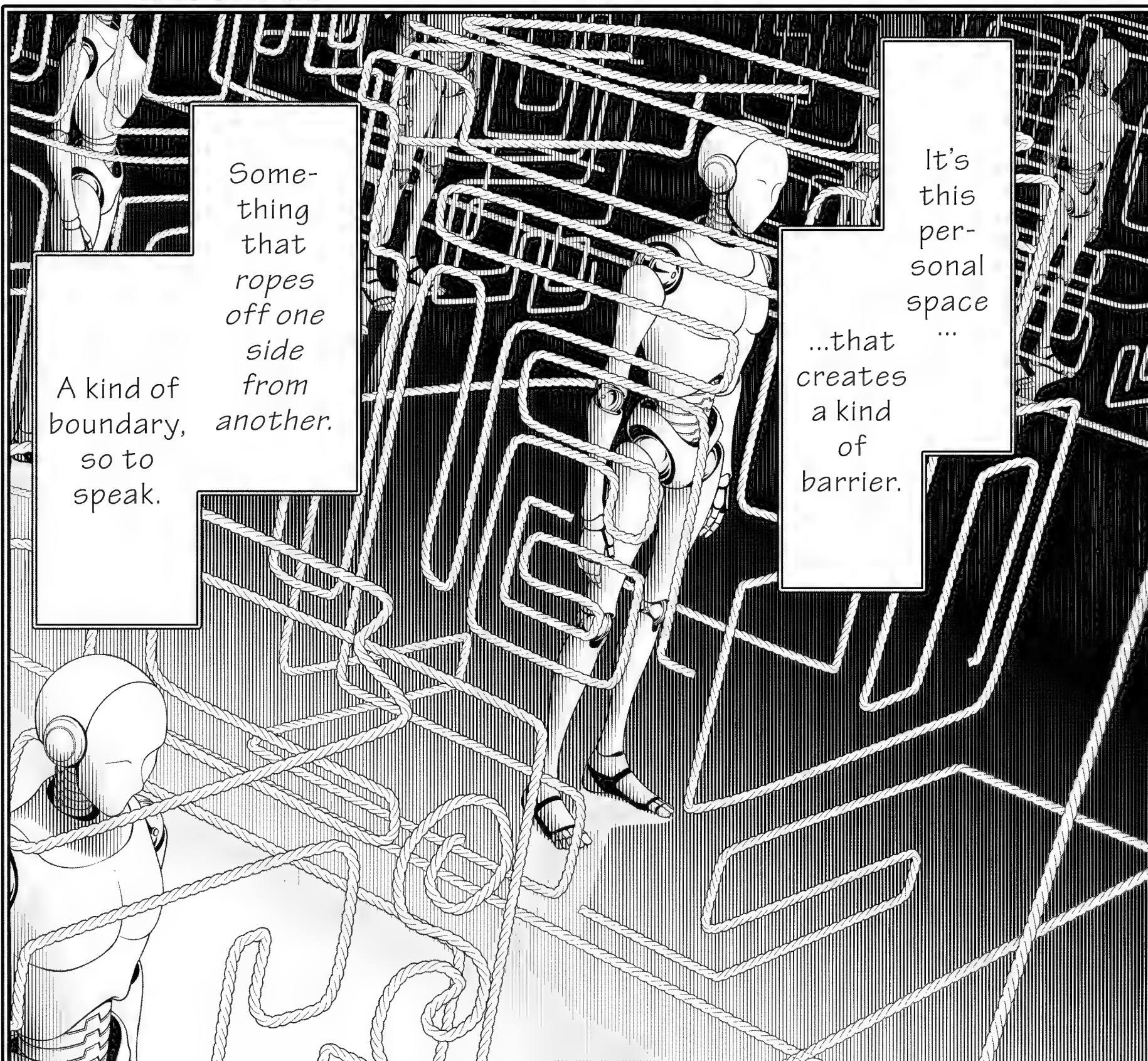
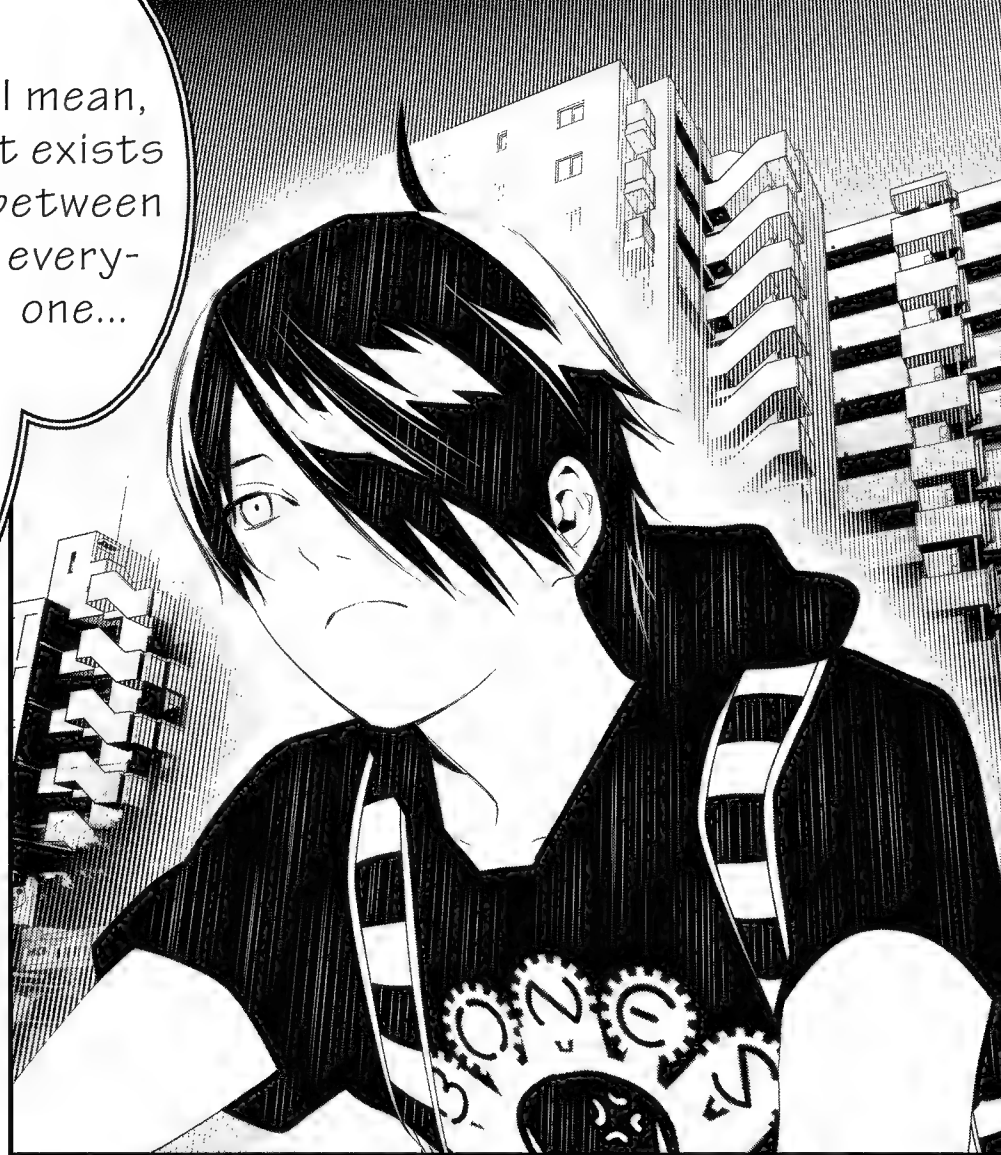
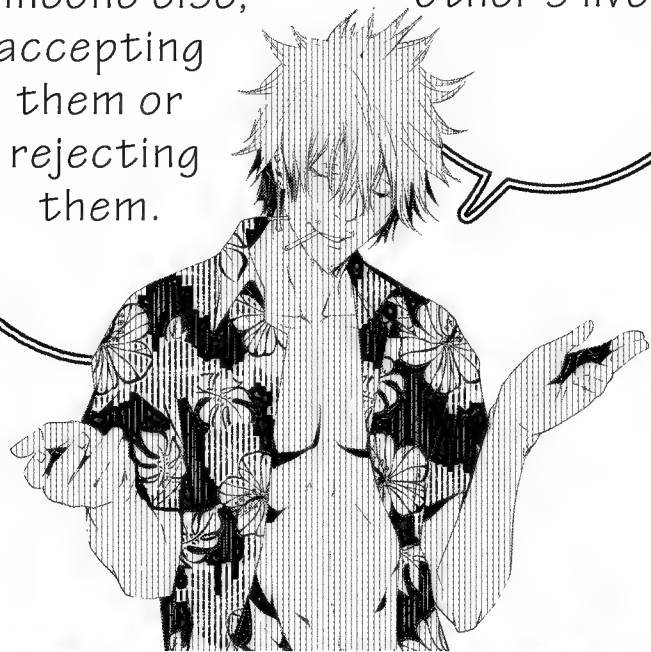
There's a wall of irresponsibility, you see.



Maybe you could call it the distance you put between yourself and someone else, accepting them or rejecting them.

Even between you and me, right? We both have to wonder to what degree we should get involved in each other's lives.

I mean, it exists between every-one...



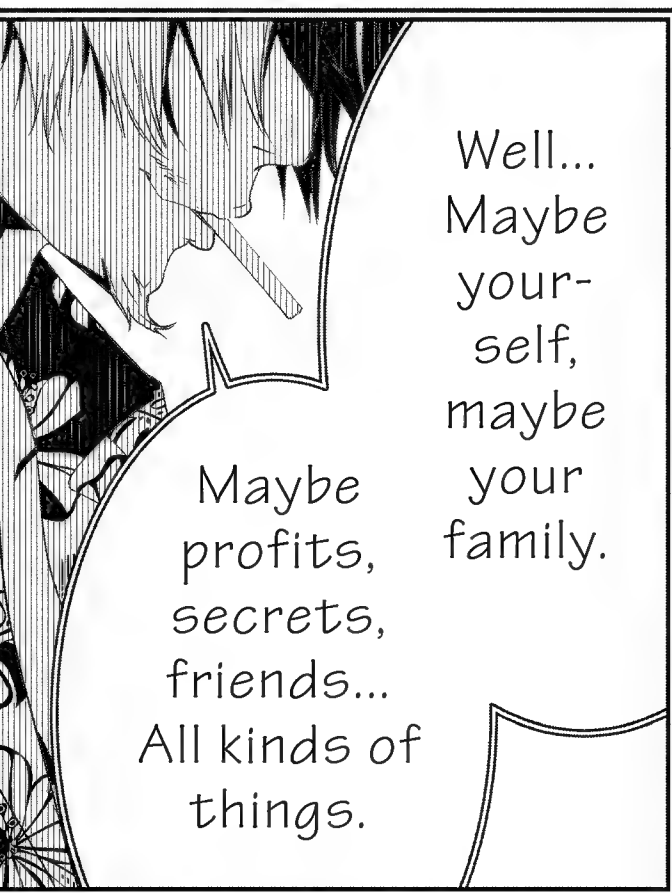
A kind of boundary, so to speak.

Something that ropes off one side from another.

It's this personal space ...
...that creates a kind of barrier.

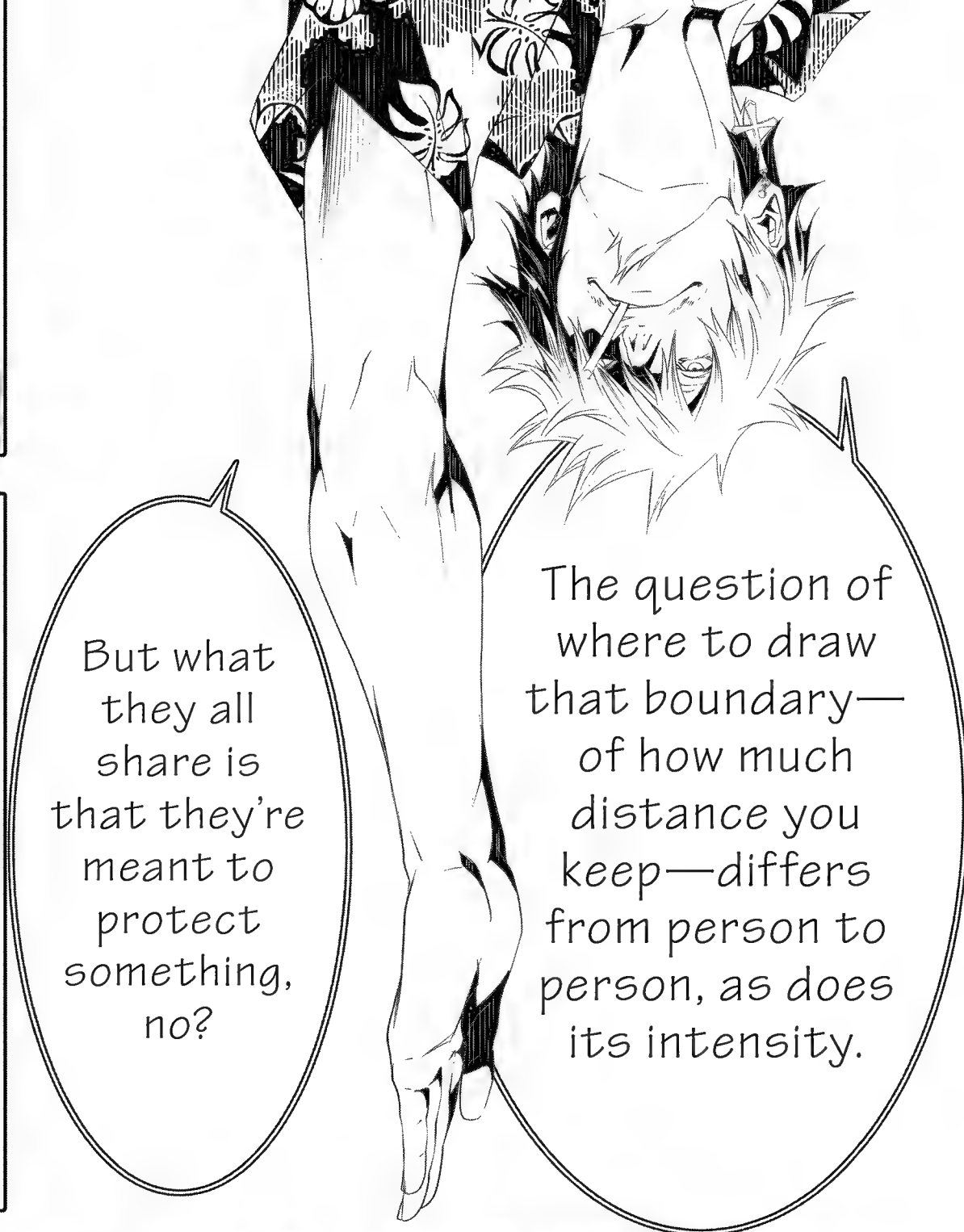


Some-
thing?
...Like
what?



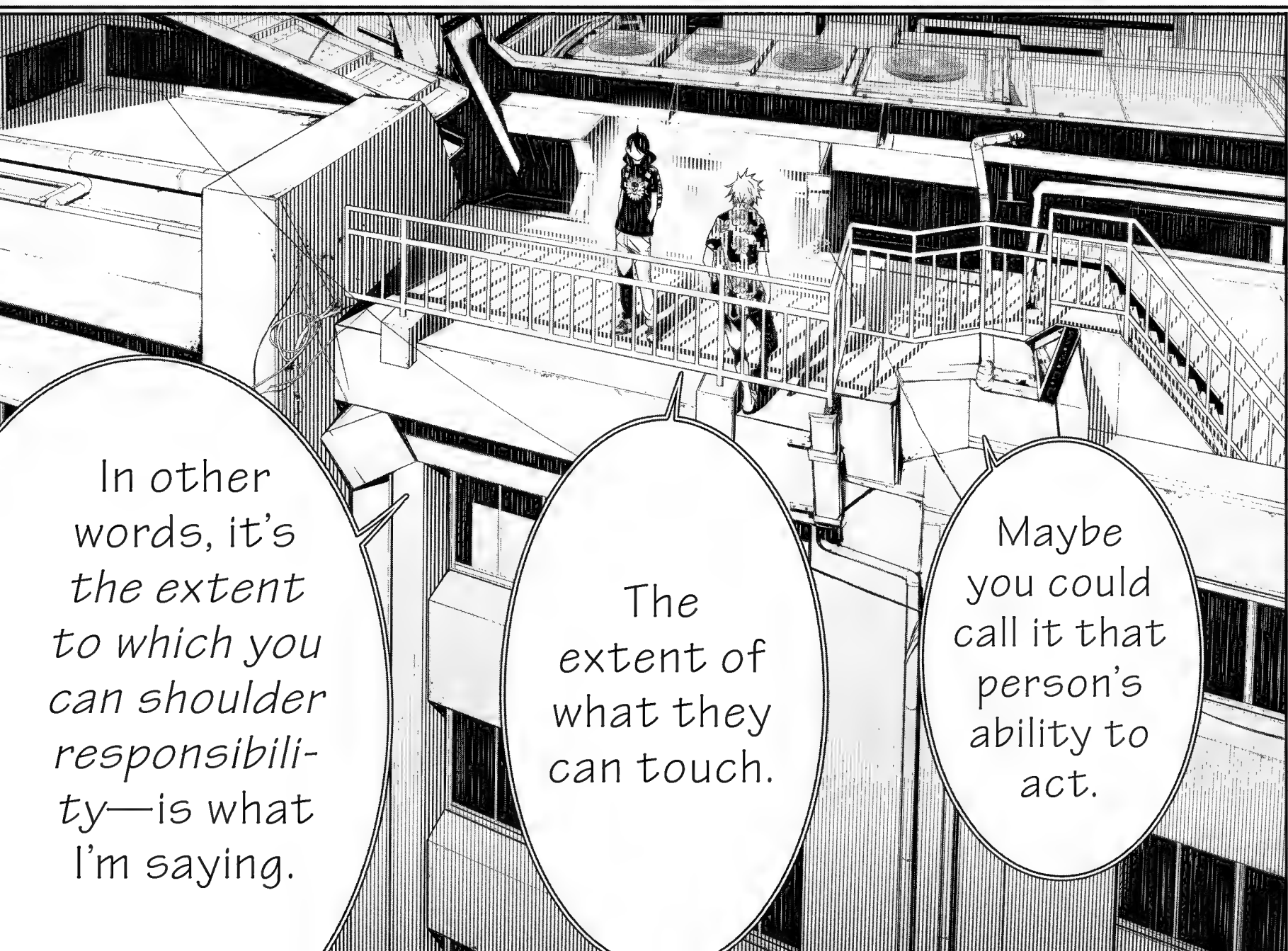
Well...
Maybe
your-
self,
maybe
your
family.

Maybe
profits,
secrets,
friends...
All kinds of
things.



But what
they all
share is
that they're
meant to
protect
something,
no?

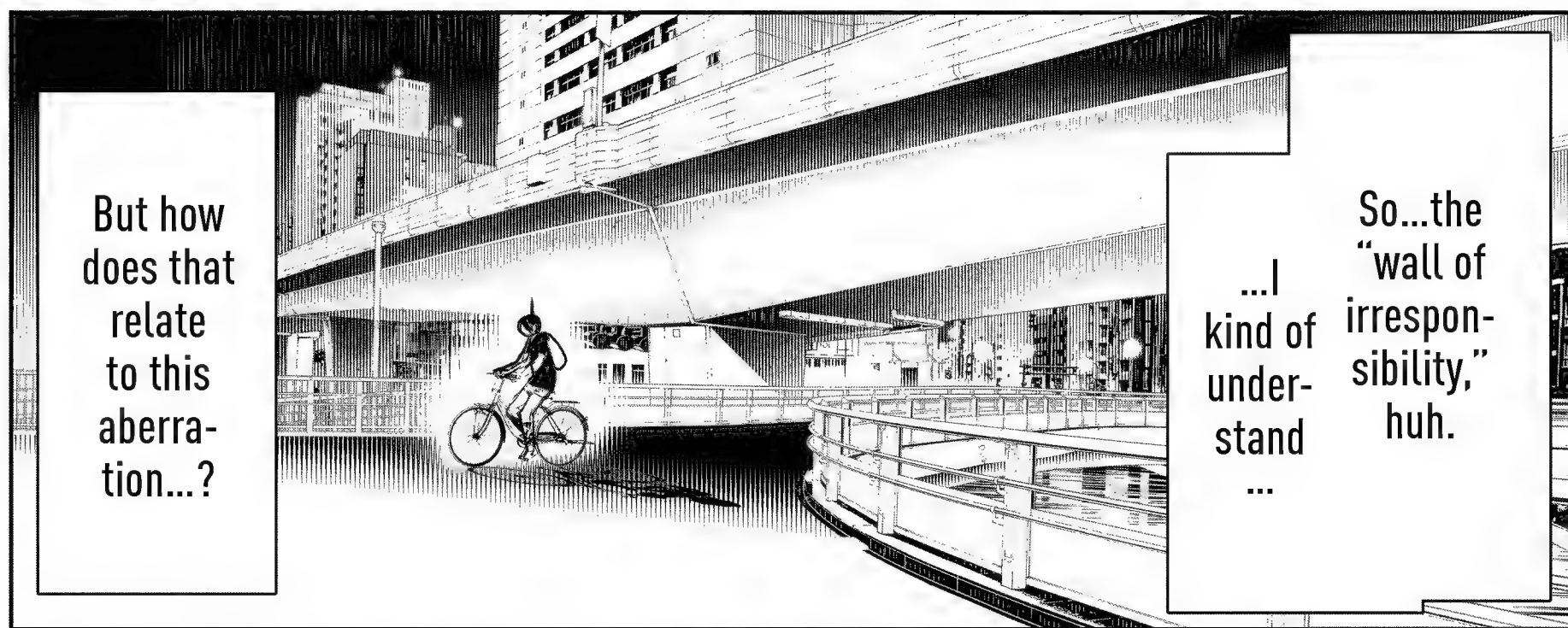
The question of
where to draw
that boundary—
of how much
distance you
keep—differs
from person to
person, as does
its intensity.



In other
words, it's
the extent
to which you
can shoulder
responsibili-
ty—is what
I'm saying.

The
extent of
what they
can touch.

Maybe
you could
call it that
person's
ability to
act.





Love
is no
different
from a
curse.

You
should
keep this
in mind,
Araragi.

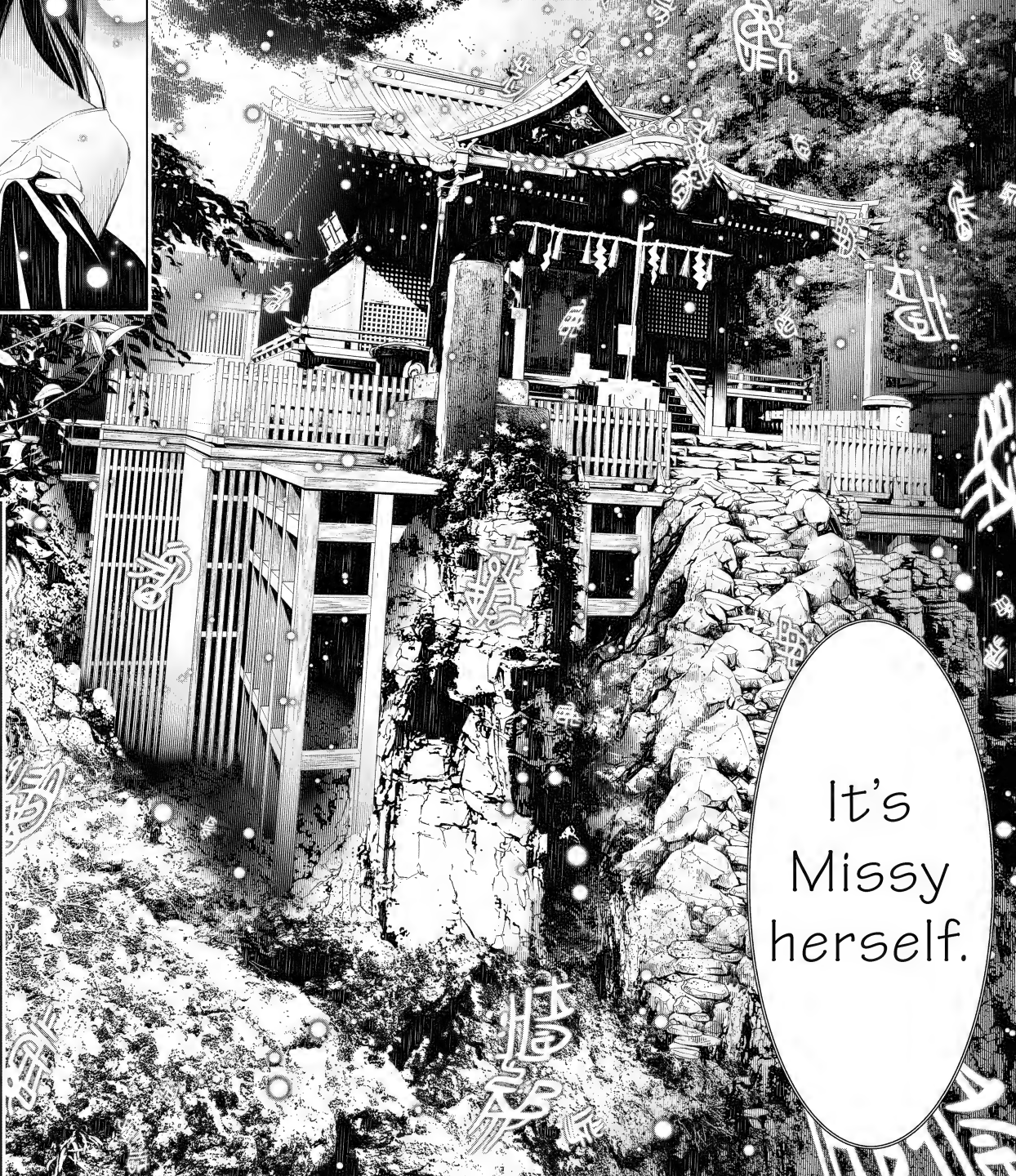
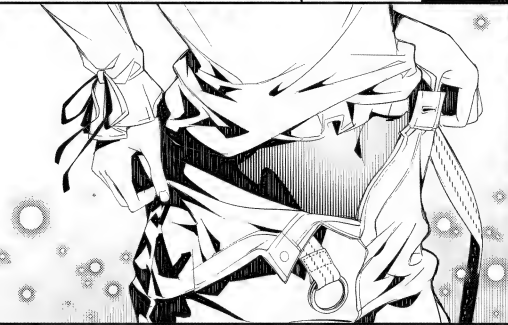


there's
just one
person
who can
destroy
those
boundaries.

But
...

They're
not normally
something
that can be
torn down
from the
outside.

Personal
walls are
strong.



It's
Missy
herself.



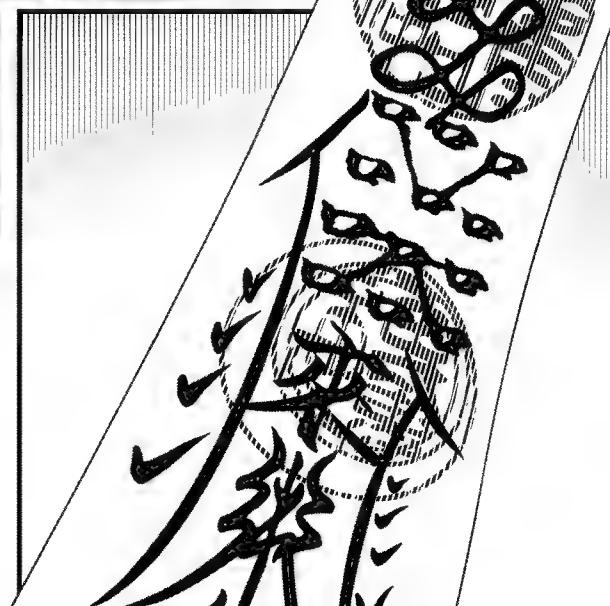
She put
that snake
inside of
herself.



Do you
under-
stand
what I'm
saying
here,
Araragi?

If you do,
getting
rid of the
snake
will be
simple.

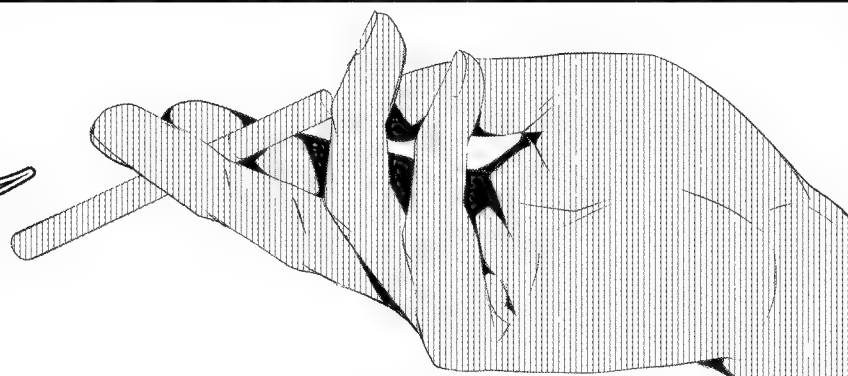
Just
give it
a little
thought.





I get
the
feeling
...

Hm...
Yeah...



But...

...that the reality of the situation...
...is going to be pretty tough on you.







If anything happens, just speak up.

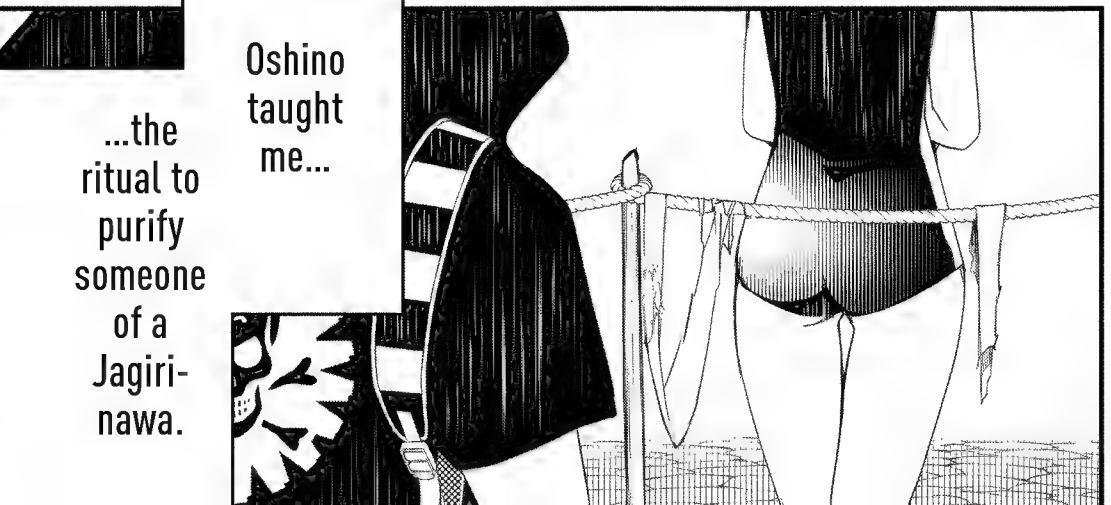
You can do this.



OKAY. I'LL TRY MY BEST.

WILL YOU PROMISE TO WATCH ME?

Of course.



Oshino taught me...

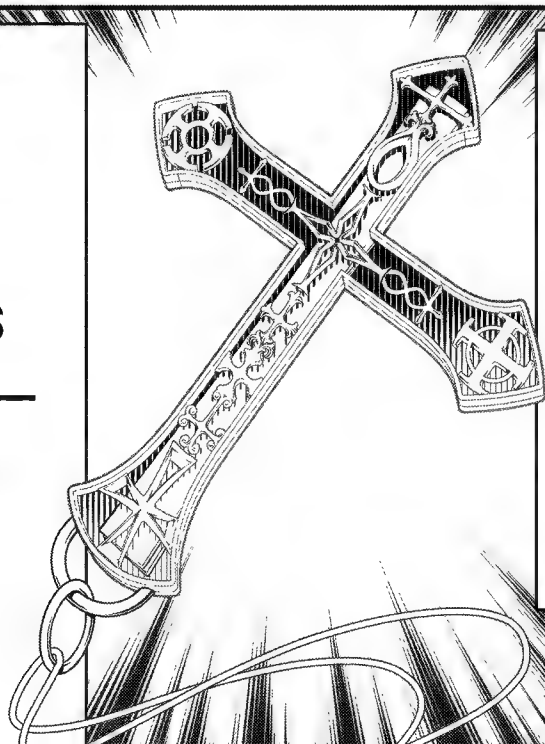
...the ritual to purify someone of a Jagiri-nawa.



Watch
over
me, Big
Brother
Koyomi.

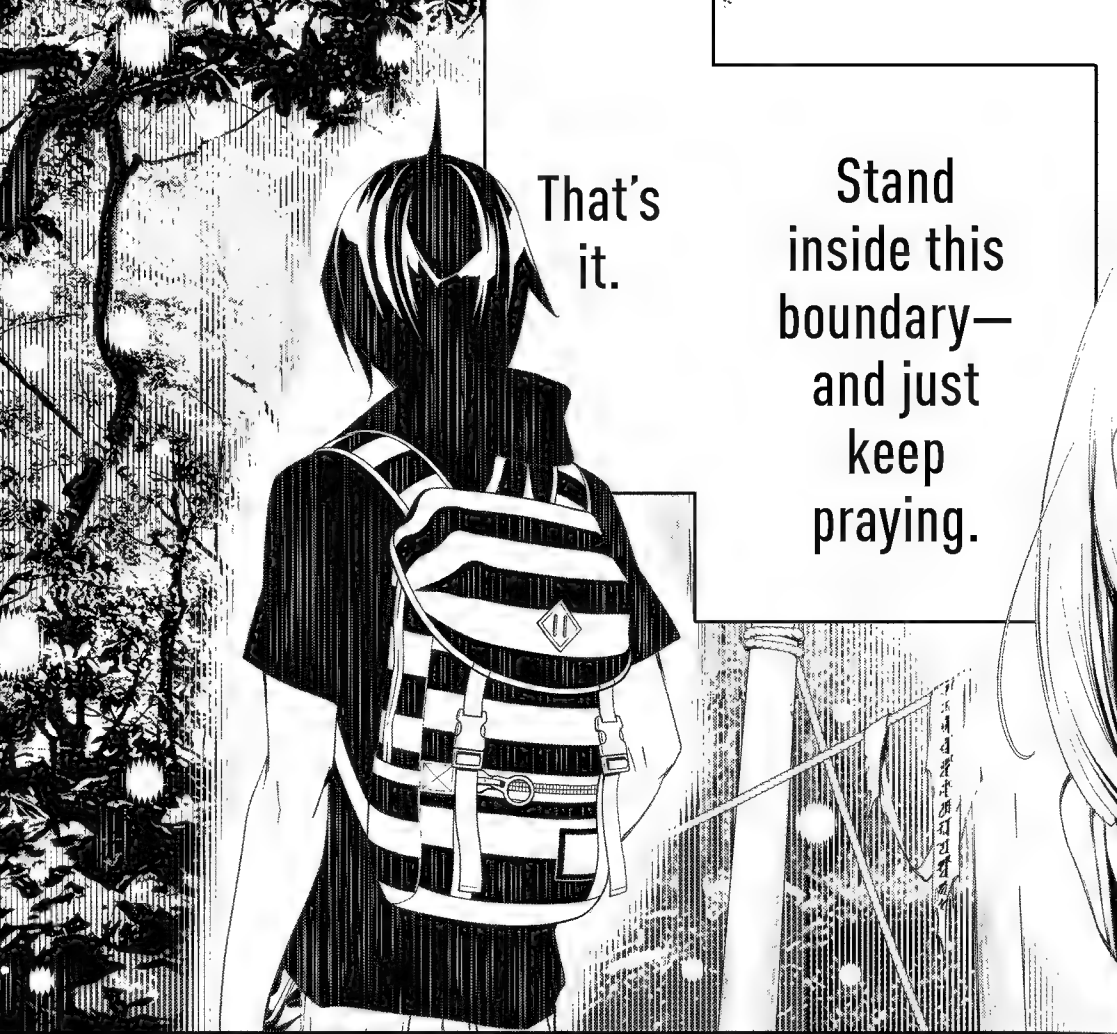
You
have to
watch.

Just
use this
talisman—
to pray.



The way
to drive it
away was
incredibly
simple.





That's
it.

Stand
inside this
boundary—
and just
keep
praying.

Close
your eyes,
steady
your
breathing.

...

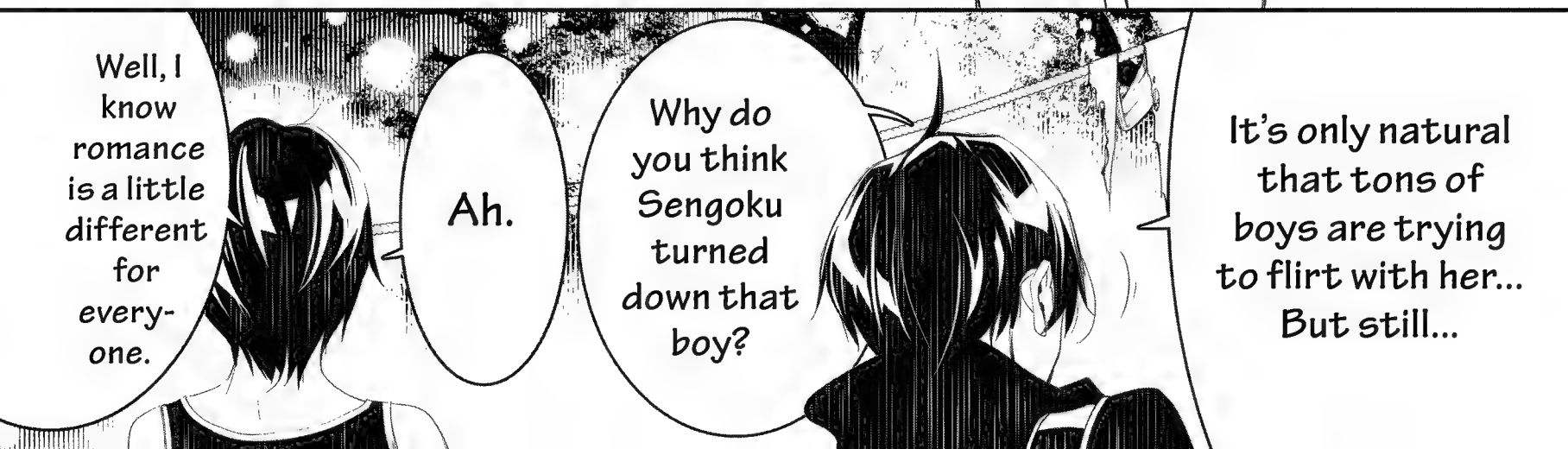


?!



Man,
she's
so
cute.

...



Well, I
know
romance
is a little
different
for
every-
one.

Ah.

Why do
you think
Sengoku
turned
down that
boy?

It's only natural
that tons of
boys are trying
to flirt with her...
But still...



...there's
apparently
someone
**SHE'S BEEN
IN LOVE WITH
FOR A REALLY
LONG TIME.**

But
accord-
ing to
what
I heard
...



...

I wonder
who it is,
the lucky
bastard.

Well, that
kind of
thing does
happen.

H
u
h.



Is it me, or did
this strange
distance between
the two of us not
exist until fairly
recently?

By the
way,
my dear
senior.



This is another recently protected species in danger of going extinct... Remember what I told you? I have excellent foresight.

WHAT EVEN POSSESSED YOU TO STICK NOT ONE BUT TWO SCHOOL SWIMSUITS INTO YOUR BAG BEFORE LEAVING TO COME MEET ME, ANYWAY?!

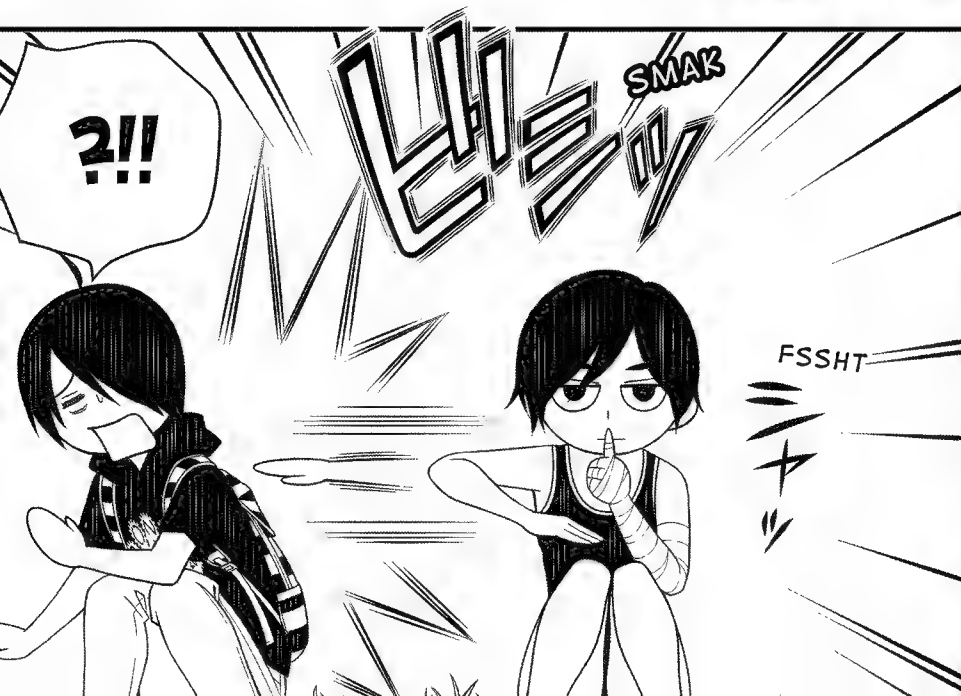
OF COURSE I'M PUTTING DISTANCE BETWEEN US! IT'D BE A WAY BIGGER PROBLEM IF I WAS SNUGGLED UP TO A GIRL WEARING A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT IN THE MOUNTAINS IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I ASKED YOU! I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU WERE EXPECTING ME TO WEAR ONE!!

I see. So you're not denying that it's to your taste?

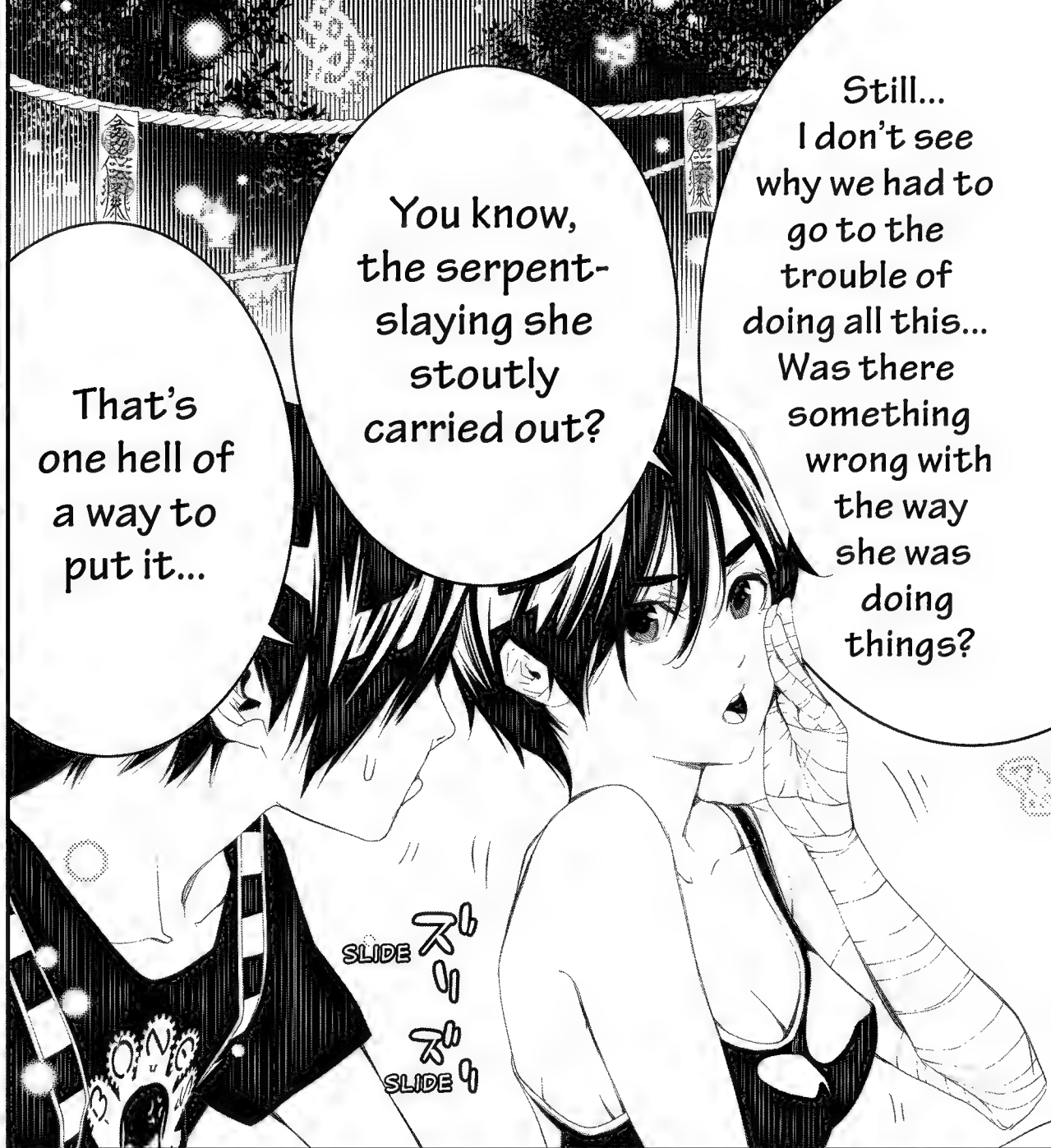
WELL, DON'T.

I was just trying to play to your tastes.





But in
this
case—
it could
expose
her to
danger.



That's
one hell of
a way to
put it...

You know,
the serpent-
slaying she
stoutly
carried out?

Still...
I don't see
why we had to
go to the
trouble of
doing all this...
Was there
something
wrong with
the way
she was
doing
things?



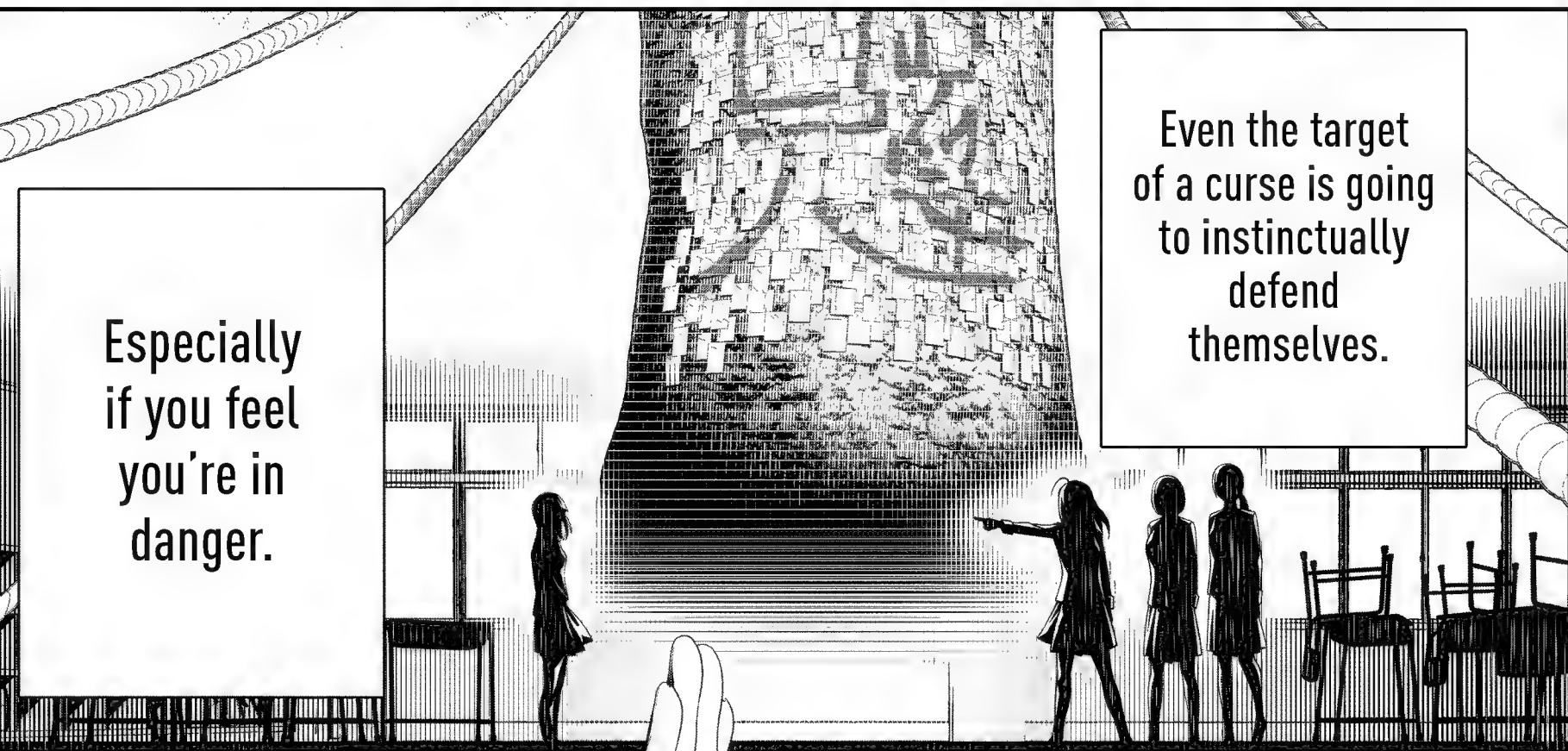
There was
nothing
wrong with
the method
itself—in fact,
that was
apparently
the correct
measure to
take.

We
can't
do
that.



That's
how Oshino
put it.

The wall of
irrespon-
sibility.



Especially
if you feel
you're in
danger.

Even the target
of a curse is going
to instinctually
defend
themselves.



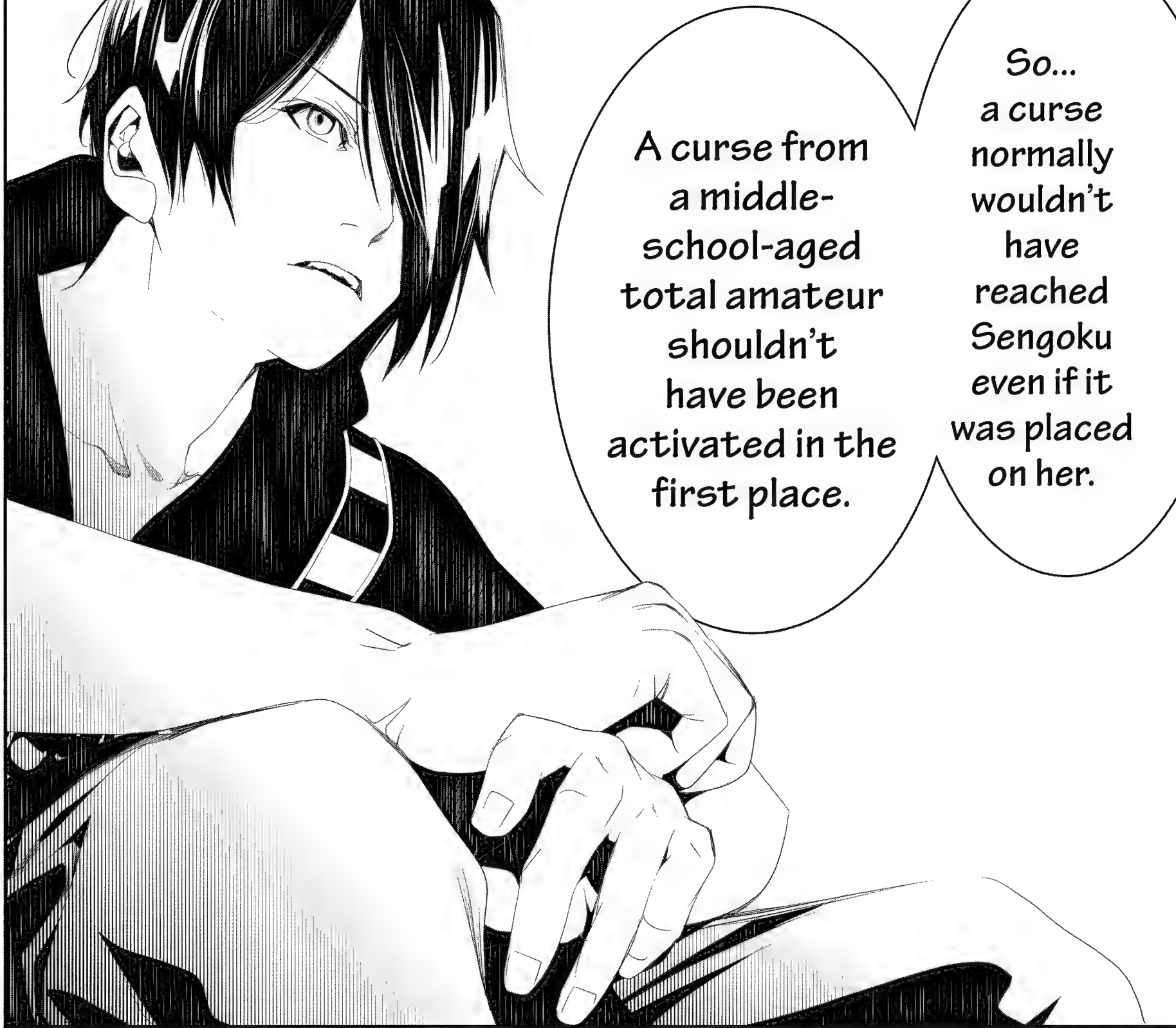
You
can do
something
about it.

You
can be
respon-
sible
for
anything
there.

So long as
you *can*
reach out
and touch
something—
so long as
it's within
your
personal
space...

It's
about
irrespon-
sibility—
in other
words,
there's
nothing you
can do about
the places
you *can't*
reach—but
at the same
time...

Self-defense (自衛) / Shut out (遮断) / Interception (迎撃) / Wall (壁) / Resist (对抗) / Defense (防衛) / Defend to death (死守) / Firm (強固) / Strong defense (堅守) / Self-protection (護身) / Protection (防御)



A curse from
a middle-
school-aged
total amateur
shouldn't
have been
activated in the
first place.

So...
a curse
normally
wouldn't
have
reached
Sengoku
even if it
was placed
on her.



And here is
where she
messed up by
performing a
curse-breaking
ceremony that
involves
chopping up
snakes.

And
then
she just
happened to
come here,
where there
are lots of
snakes.

But
Sengoku
took it
seriously,
looking into
curses at
the book-
store.



And that's
where she
killed a
bunch of
snakes.

Ground
zero
for this
region's
veneration
of a snake
god.

This is
Kita-
Shirahebi
Shrine—

Of course a
god's going
to get mad
at you for
that.

...she
performed
the
ceremony
correctly.

And of
all the
things
she
could've
done...

This is
also where
all these
bad things
are
gathered
and
swirling
about—



That it got
activated—
in reverse?

It took me a
few hours to
figure that
out, though...

...
Yeah.

How'd
she
figure it
out...?

Are you
trying to
say...

Wait...
Araragi.



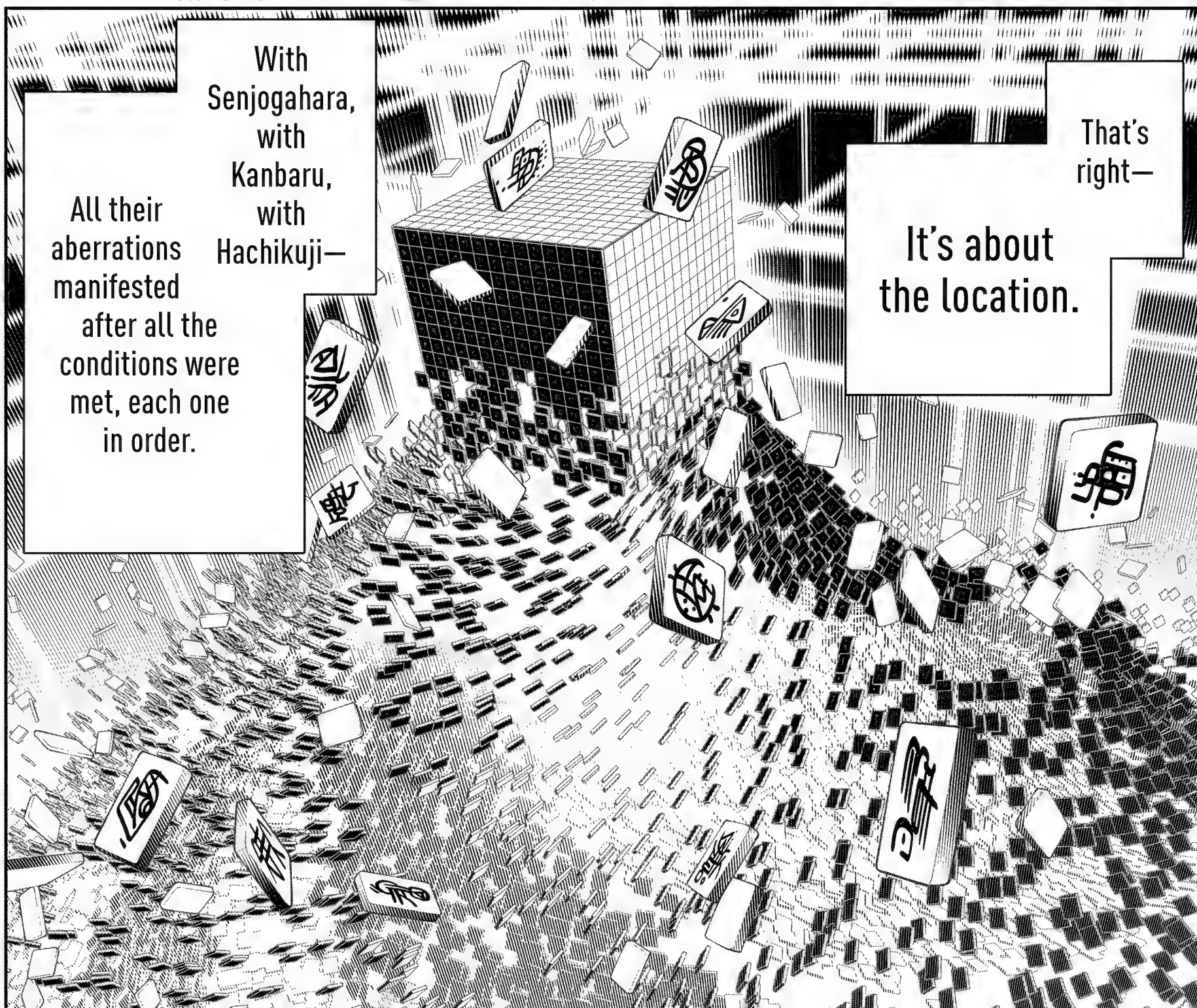
*How it's
put
together.*

...is the
order of
things.

What's
import-
ant...



Like Oshino
always says.

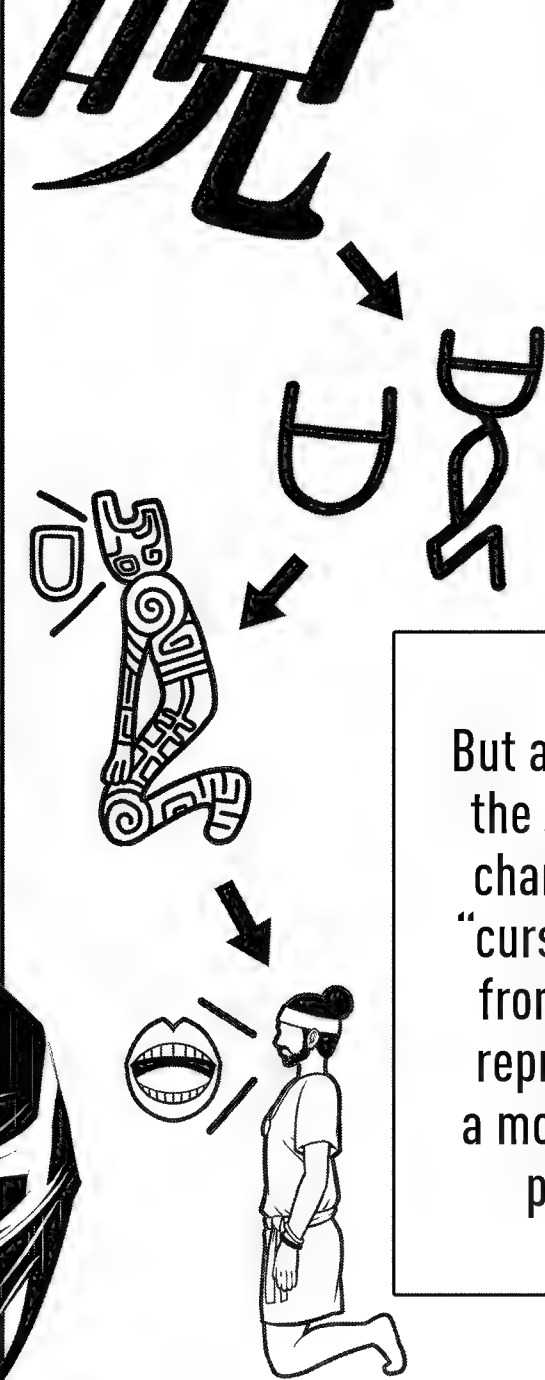


All their
aberrations
manifested
after all the
conditions were
met, each one
in order.

With
Senjogahara,
with
Kanbaru,
with
Hachikuji—

That's
right—

It's about
the location.



This is just according to what I read online.

But apparently, the Japanese character for "curse" comes from shapes representing a mouth and a person.

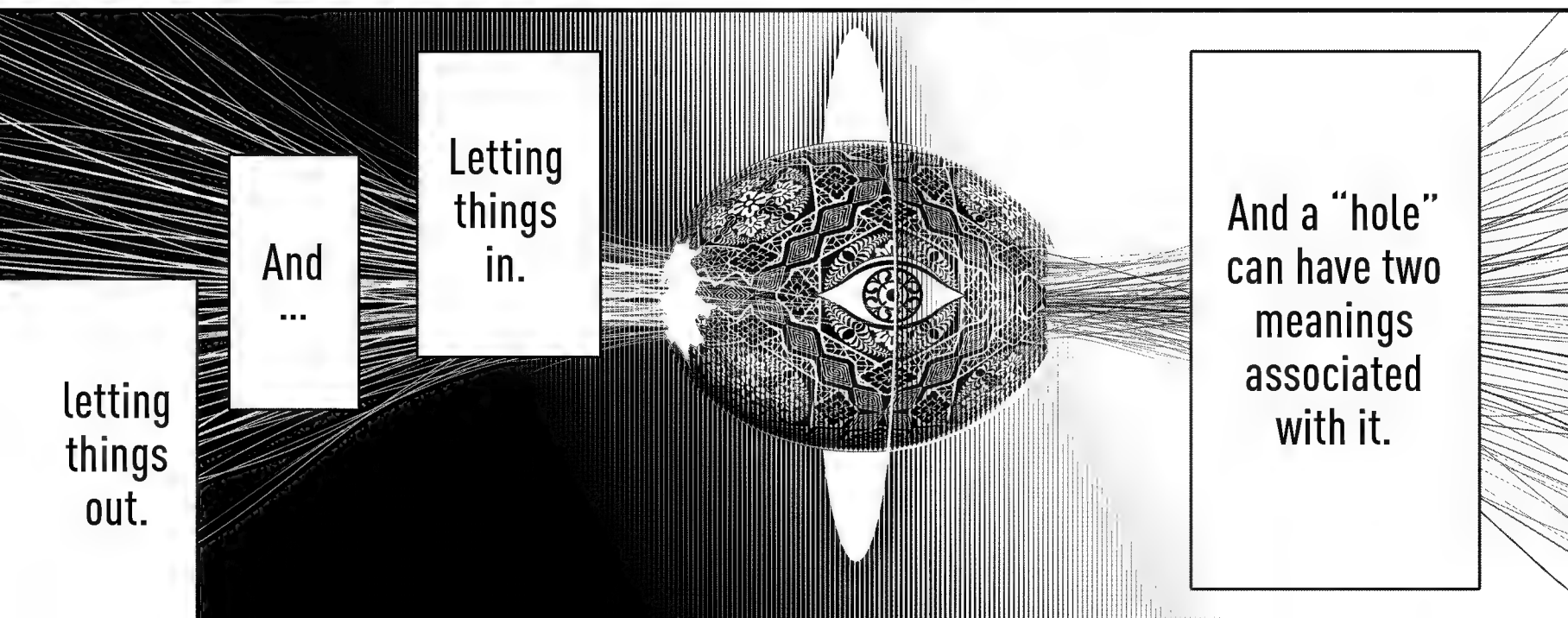
A mouth. In other words...

A "hole," right?



A "hole" you use to put your thoughts out into the world.

One for words.

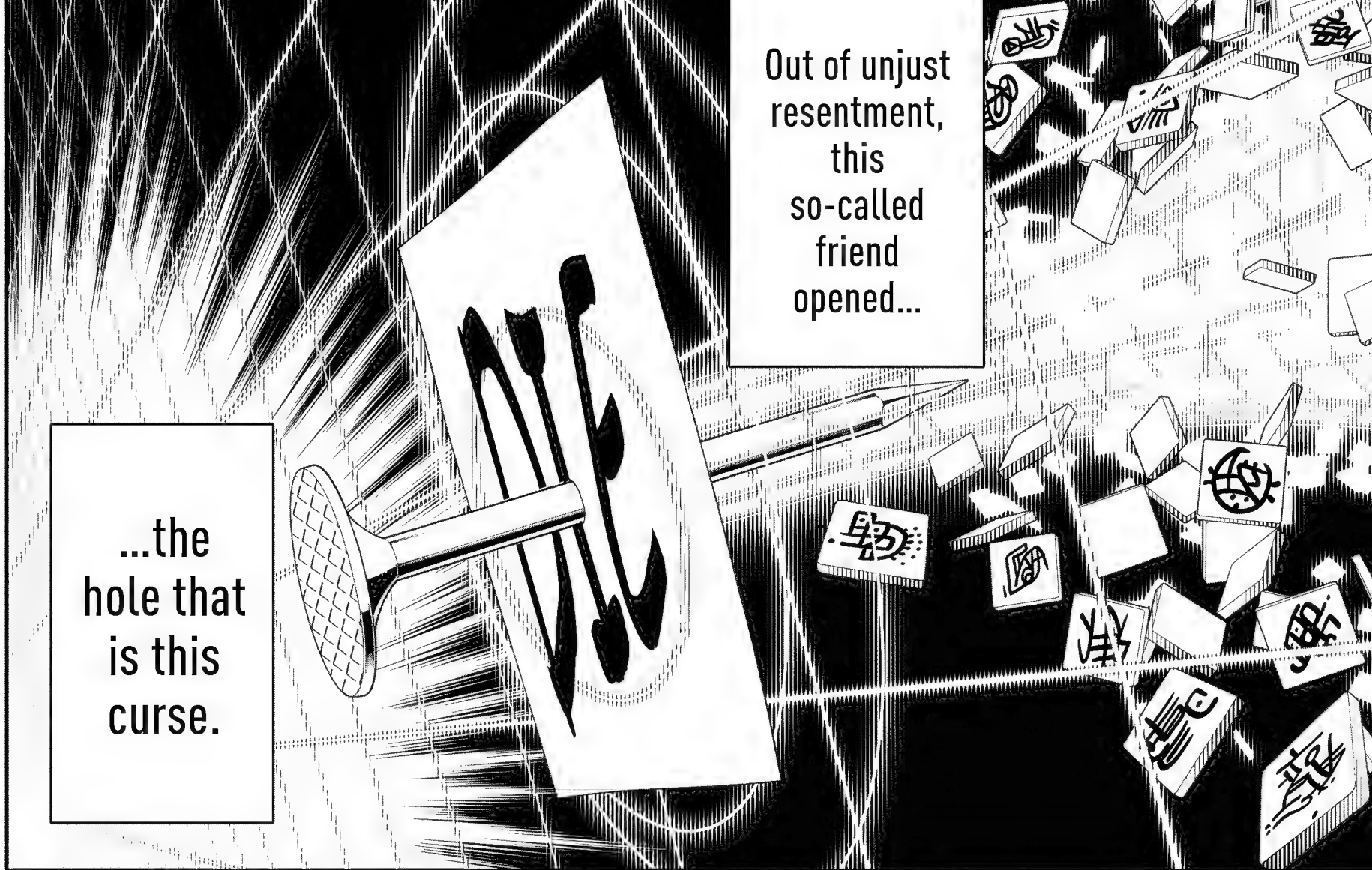


And ...

Letting things in.

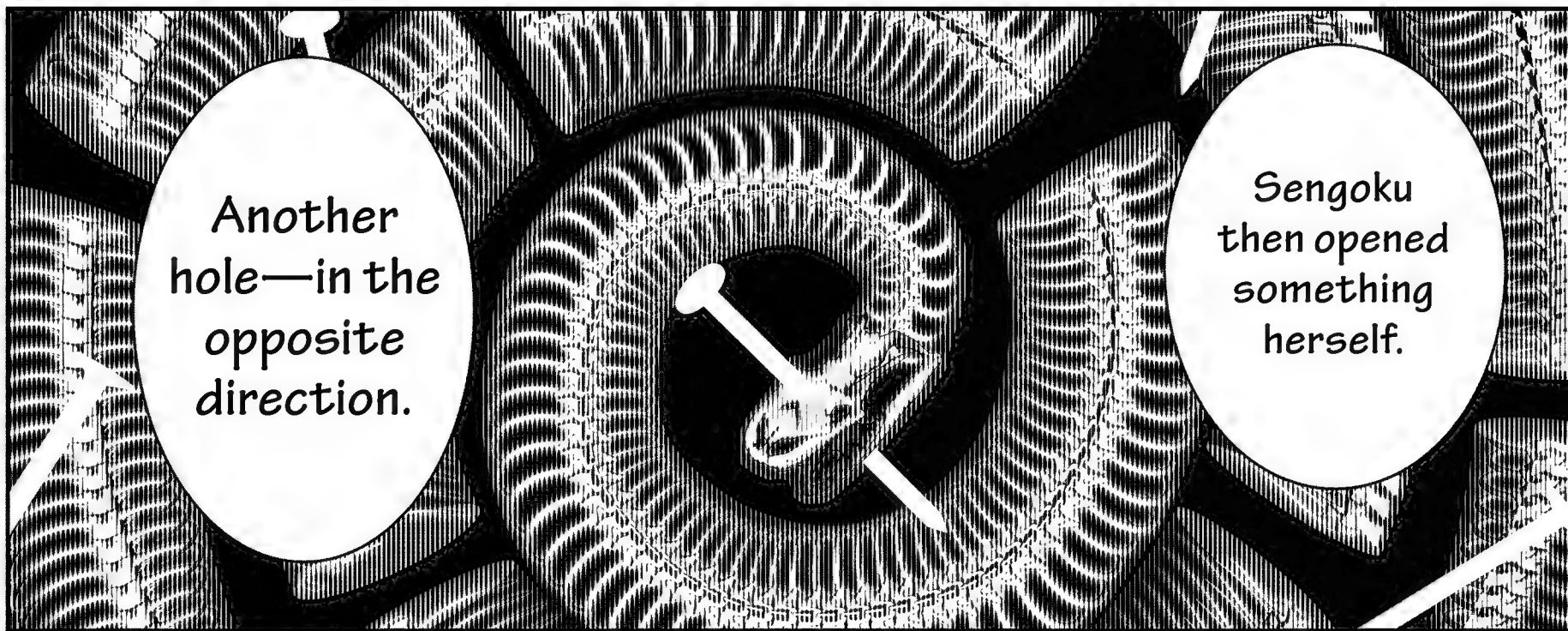
And a "hole" can have two meanings associated with it.

letting things out.



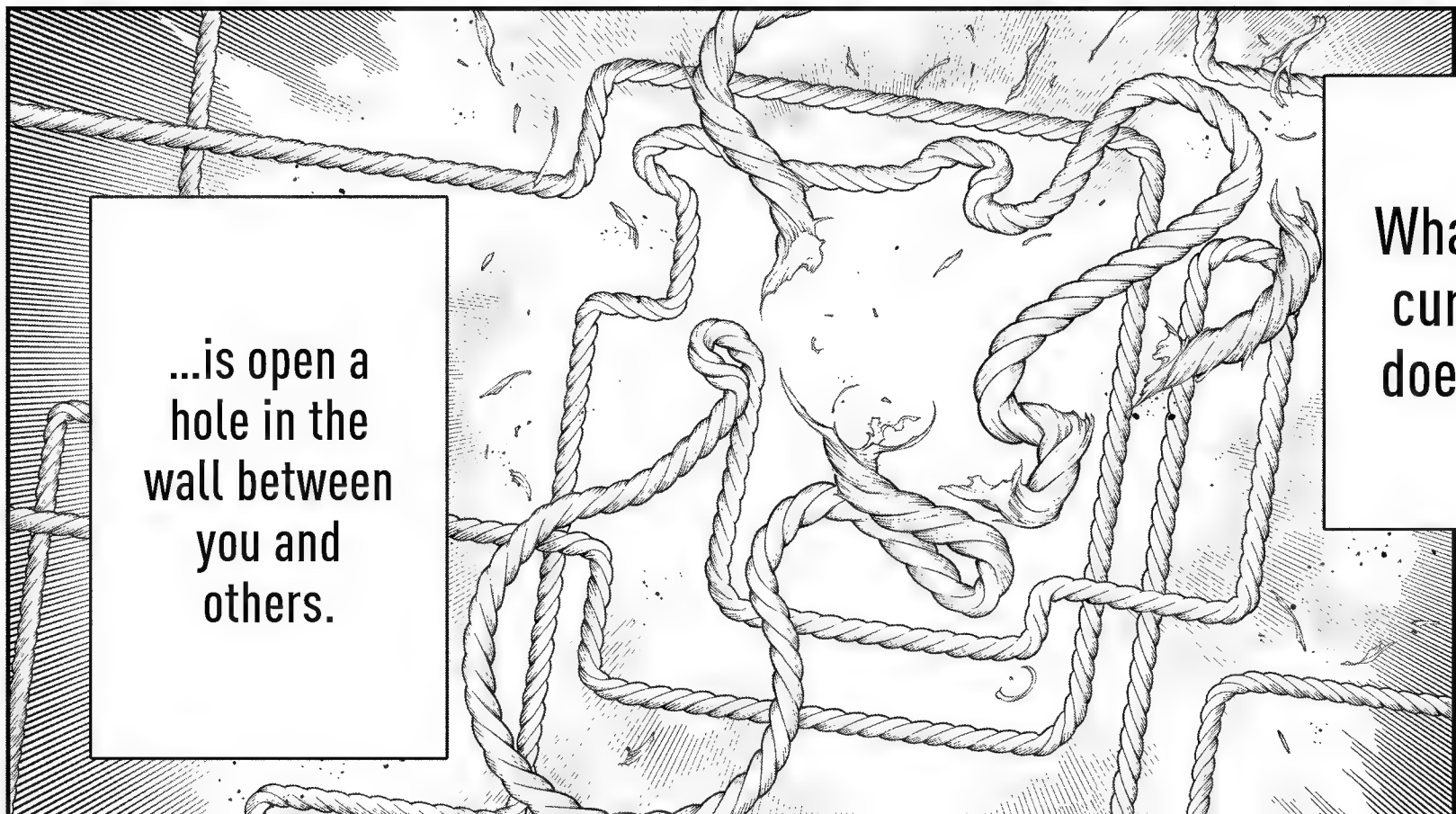
...the
hole that
is this
curse.

Out of unjust
resentment,
this
so-called
friend
opened...



Another
hole—in the
opposite
direction.

Sengoku
then opened
something
herself.



...is open a
hole in the
wall between
you and
others.

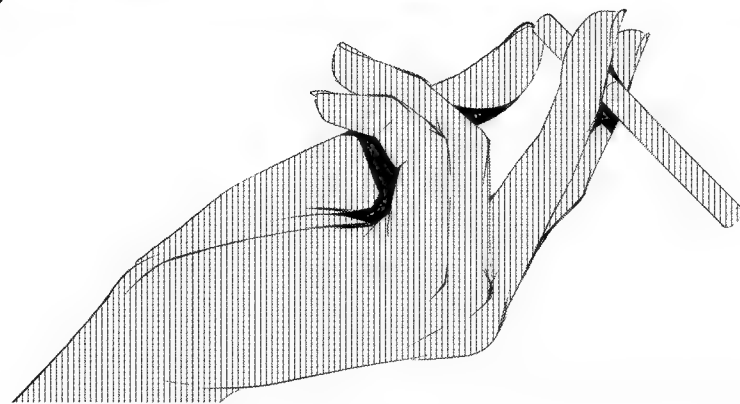
What a
curse
does...



Creating a
direct tunnel
between her
and the person
who cursed her.

By sheer
accident...
Sengoku did
the right thing,
but in *reverse*
order—

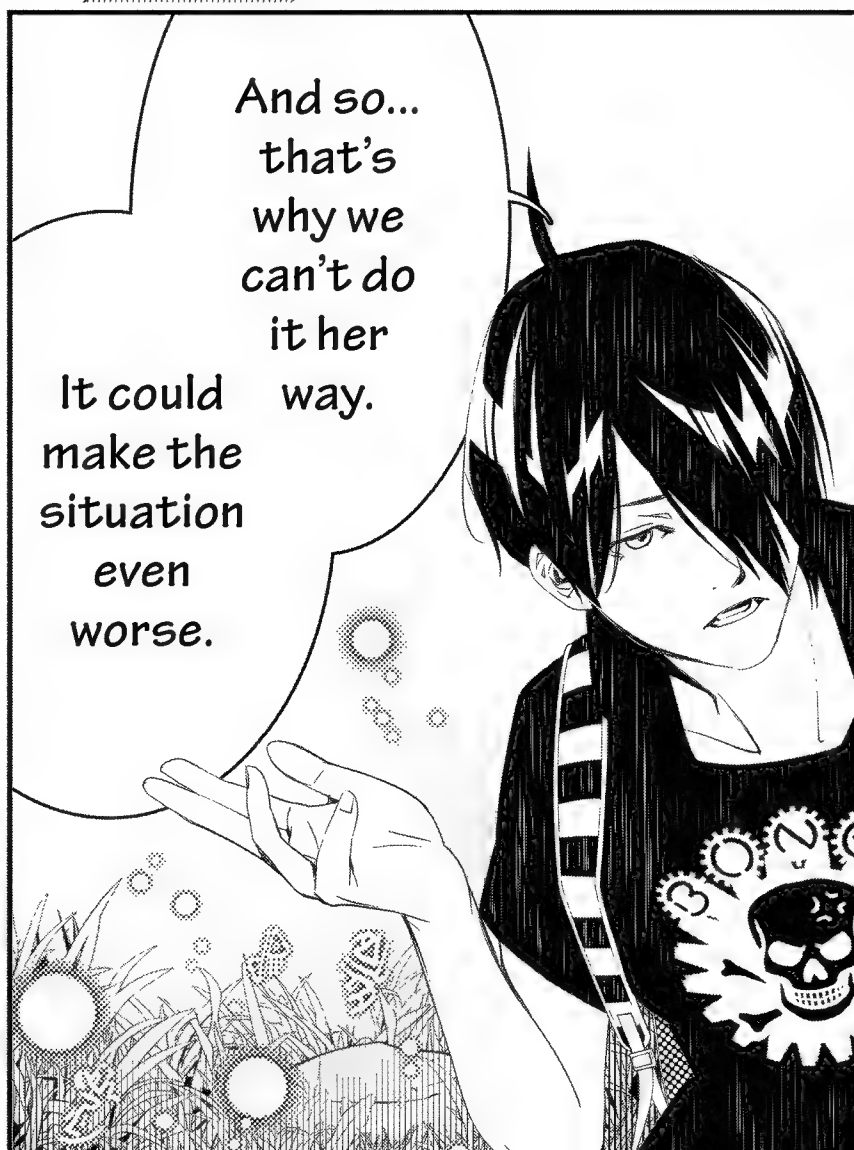
“She put that snake
inside of herself.”



Yeah...
I guess
you'd call
it bad luck,
or maybe
...

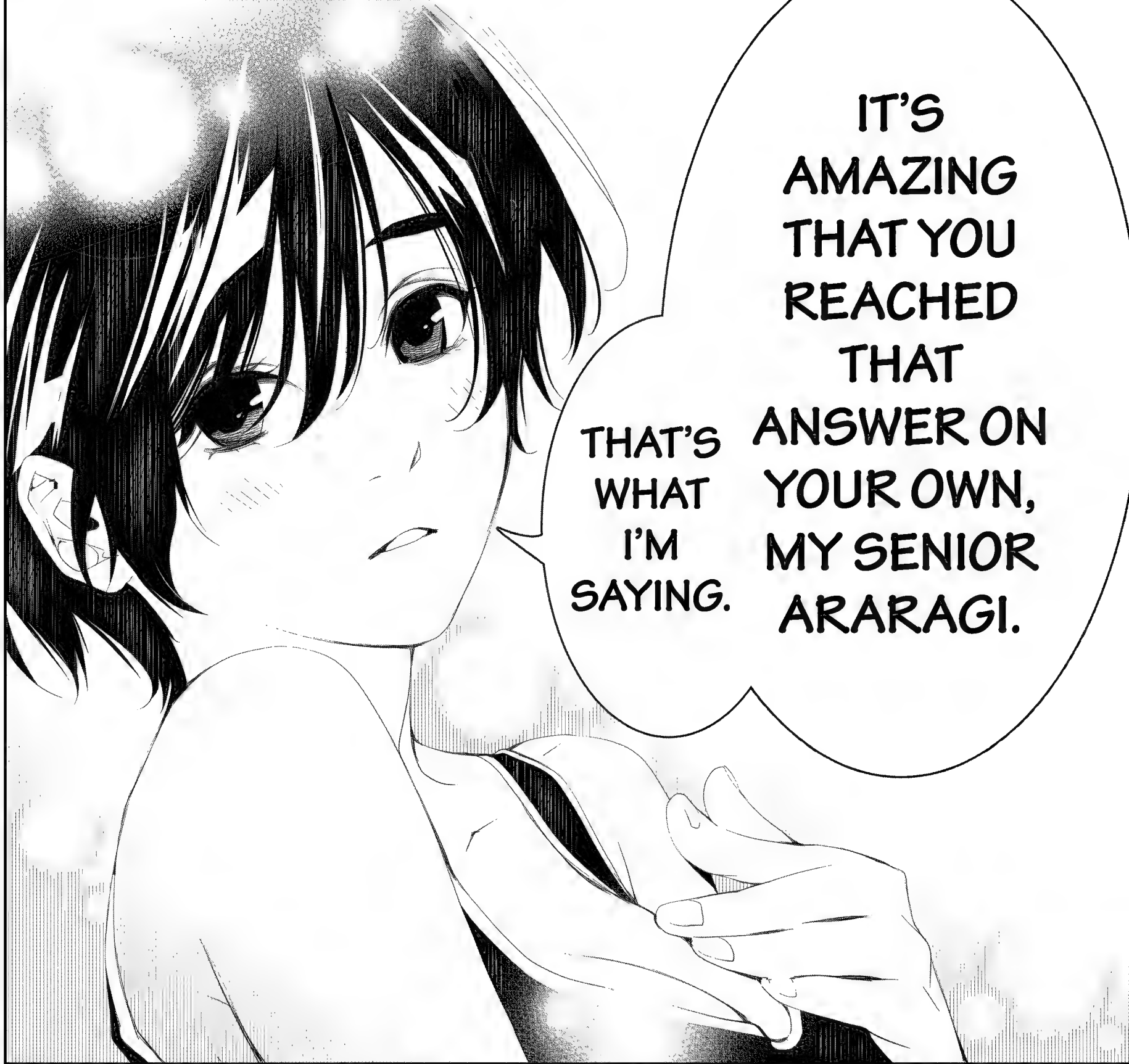
...That's
amazing.

No,
that's
not what
I mean.



And so...
that's
why we
can't do
it her
way.

It could
make the
situation
even
worse.



THAT'S
WHAT
I'M
SAYING.

IT'S
AMAZING
THAT YOU
REACHED
THAT
ANSWER ON
YOUR OWN,
MY SENIOR
ARARAGI.



HEHEH.
OH, YOU!
♡

Anyone
could've
figured
something
like this
out...

Er, no...
Oshino
gave me
plenty of
hints.

Even with hints...
I doubt I'd have
been able to
understand any
of this just a few
months earlier.

That's—
a lie.

No.





*...is no
different
from a
curse,
you know.*

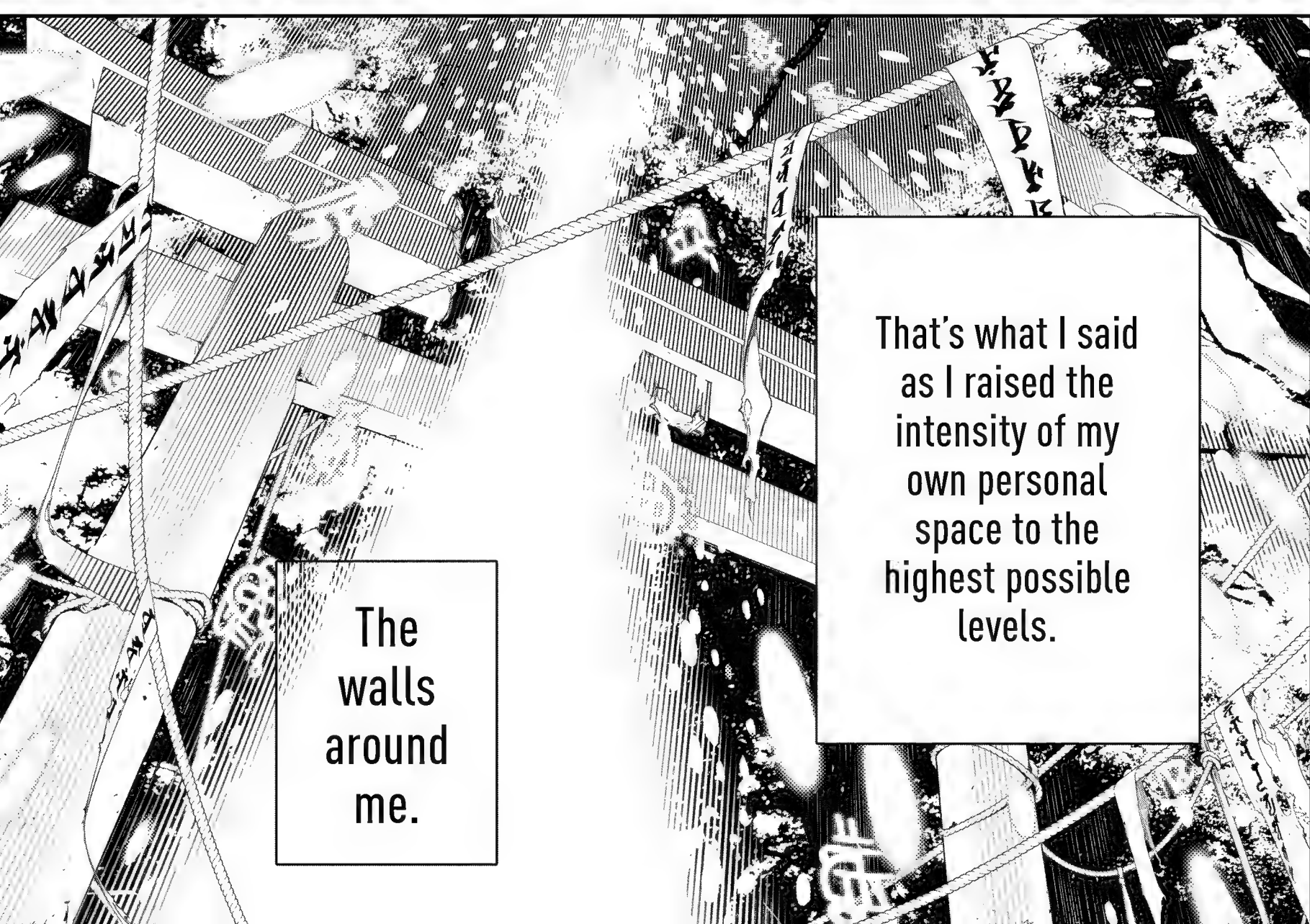
Love...



*It would
lower my
intensity
...
...as
a
human.*

*I don't
know how
a guy
like him
comes
up with
something
like that,
but...*

*Heh
...*



*The
walls
around
me.*

*That's what I said
as I raised the
intensity of my
own personal
space to the
highest possible
levels.*



you.

love

I



In that
moment

...

...I was
cursed.

...to open
a hole
inside of
me.

Those
words
were

all she
needed

...

And
it was
one hell
of a huge
hole.





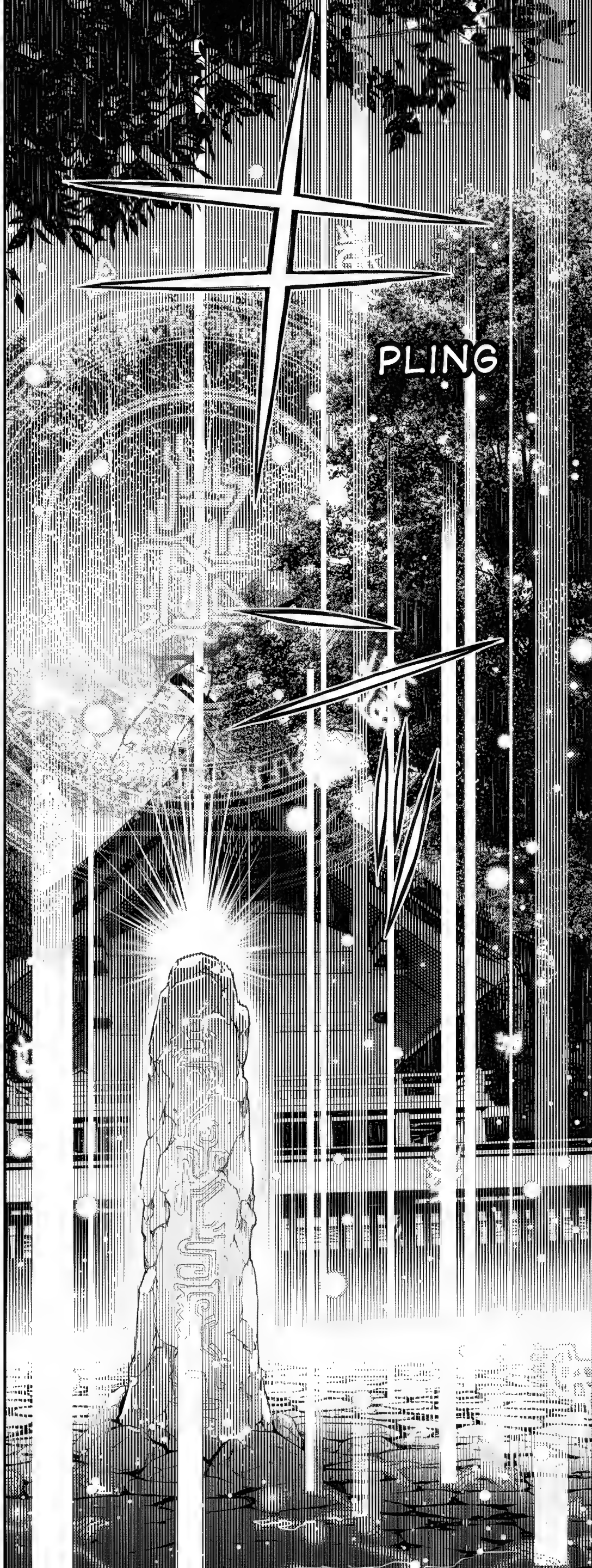
祓

Exorcise



BAKEMONOGATARI









MY
SENIOR
ARA-
RAGI!!!



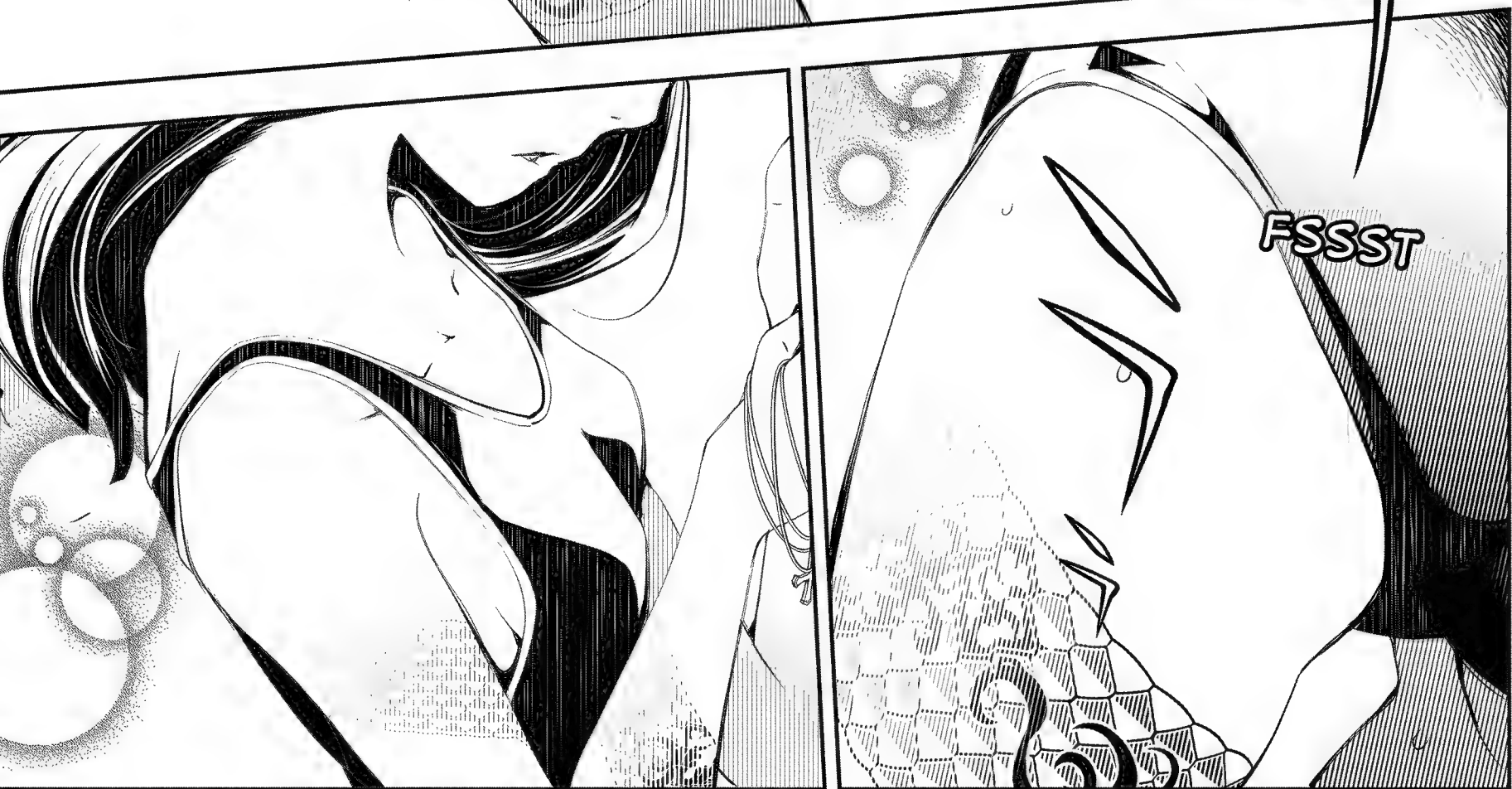
Hngh!

Ah!



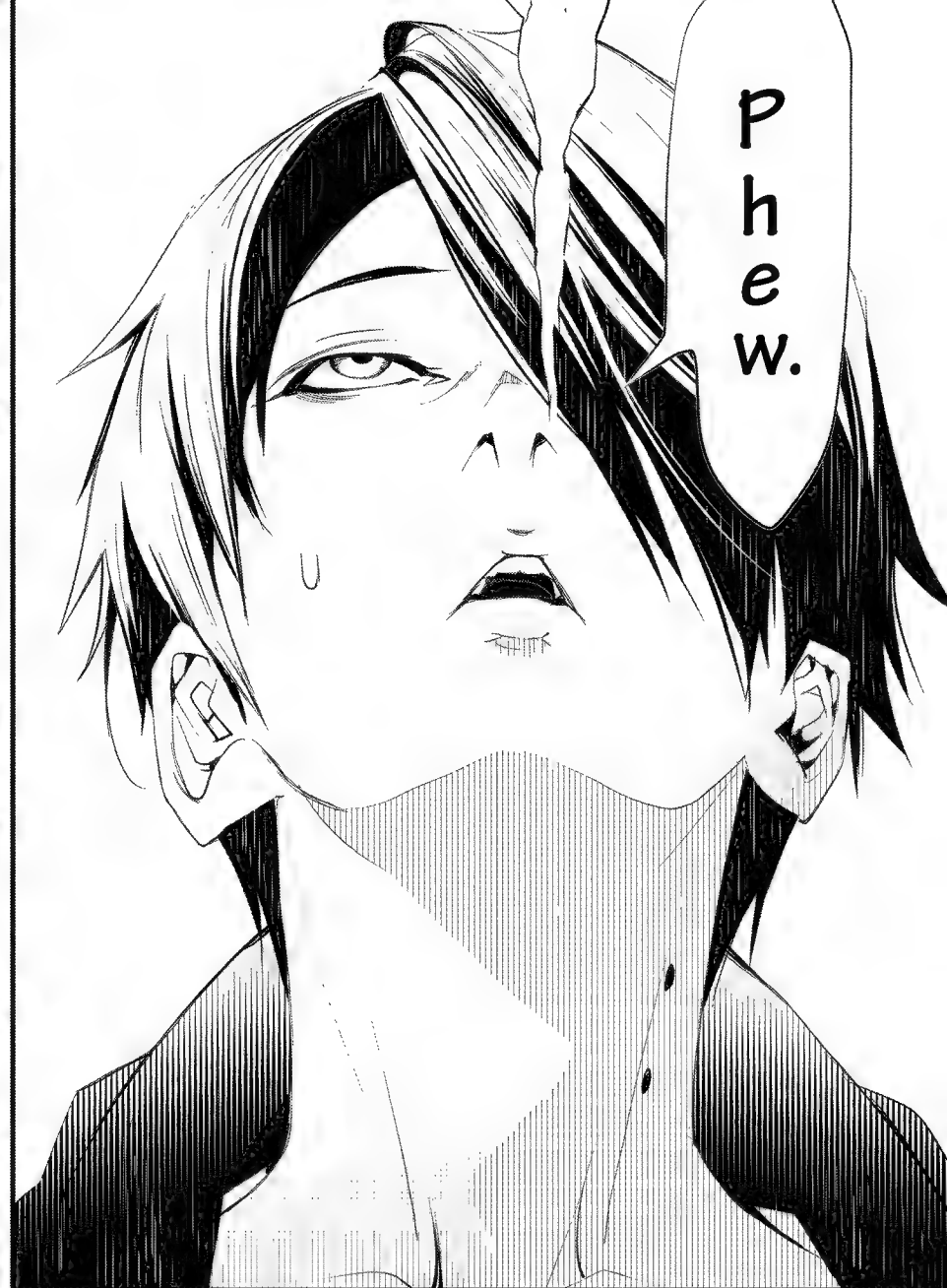
It's
okay.





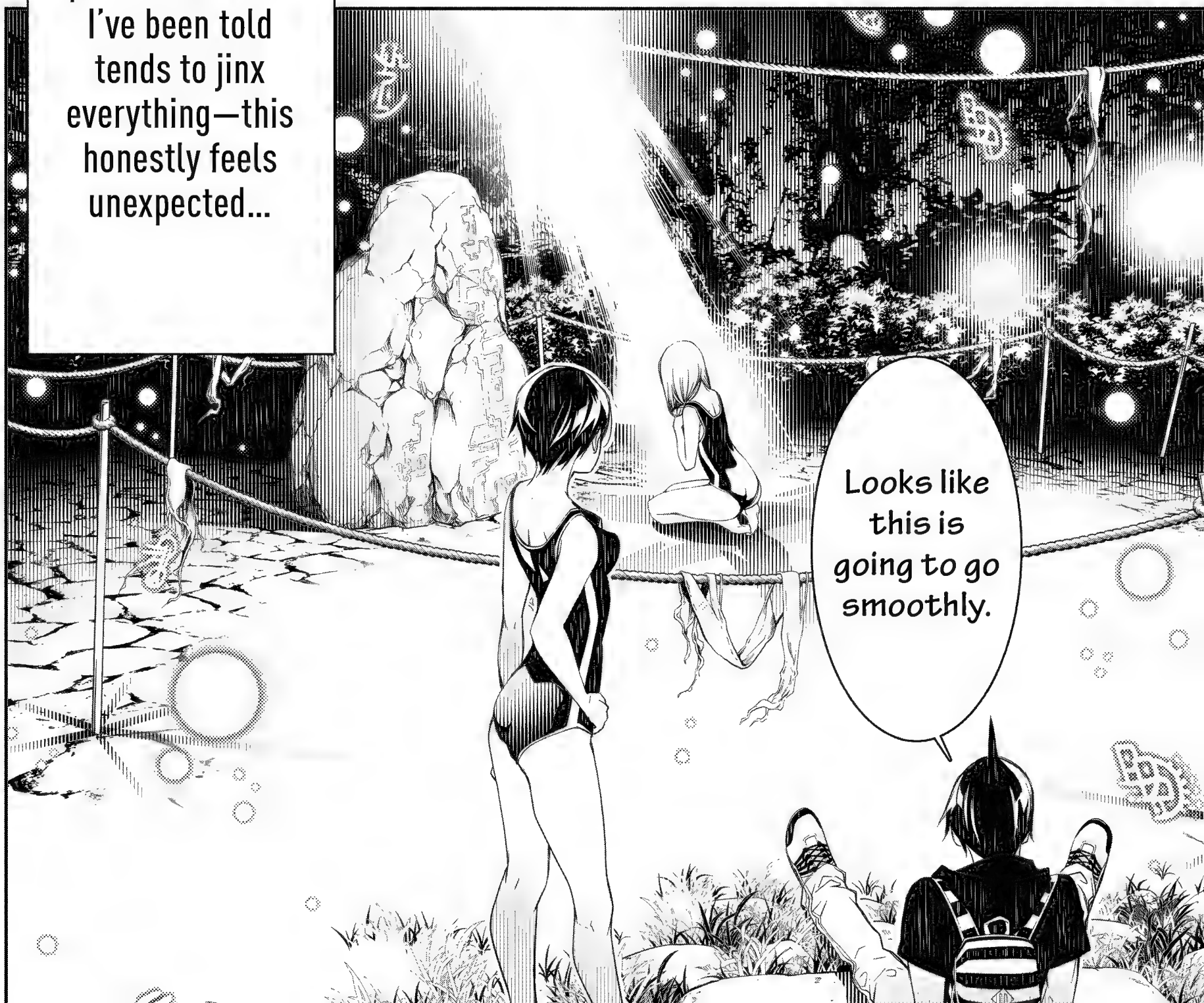


Oshino was
saying it
could take
all night...
But only
ten minutes
have passed
so far.



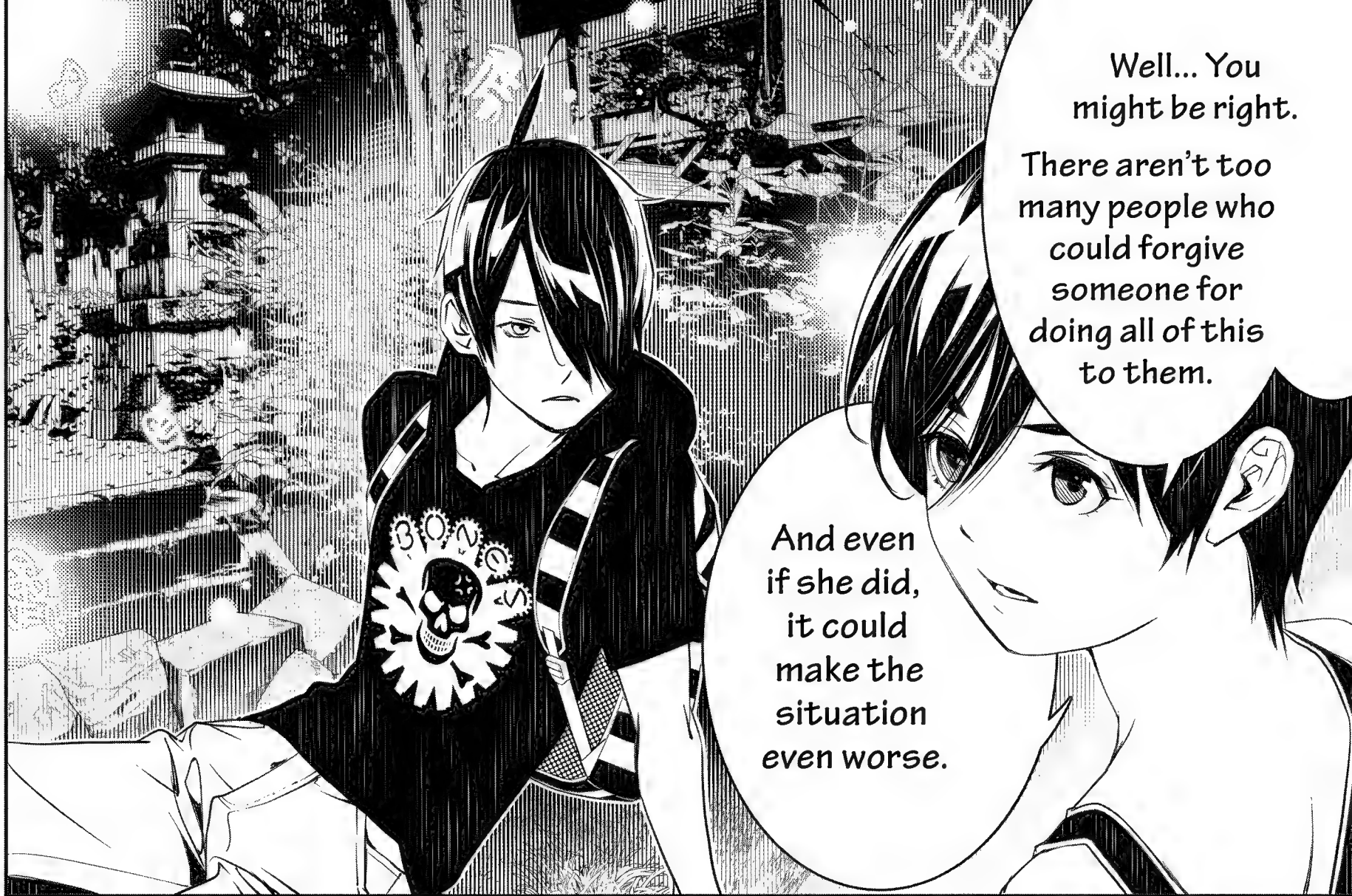
P
h
e
w.

Given my own
presence, which
I've been told
tends to jinx
everything—this
honestly feels
unexpected...



Looks like
this is
going to go
smoothly.





Well... You might be right.

There aren't too many people who could forgive someone for doing all of this to them.

And even if she did, it could make the situation even worse.



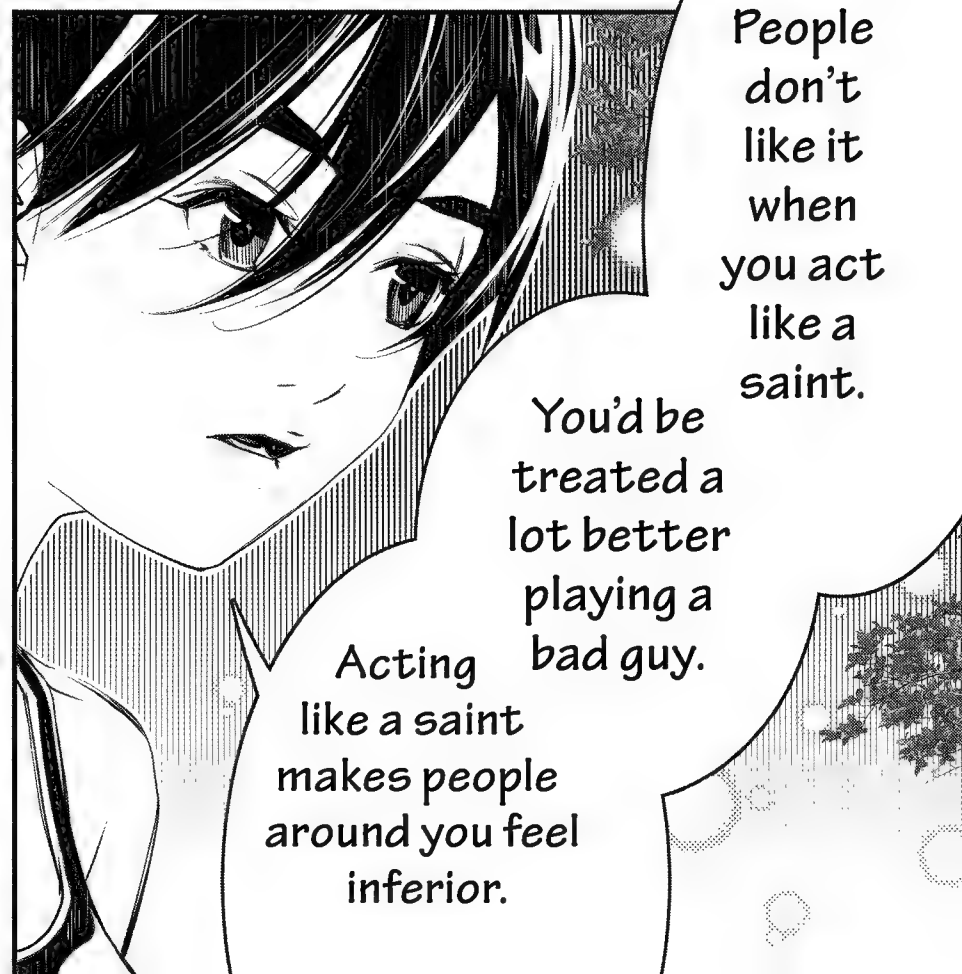
It's like you said, my dear senior.

If you feel like getting angry—you ought to get angry.

It doesn't make sense for you to bear it in the first place.



Why...?



People don't like it when you act like a saint.

You'd be treated a lot better playing a bad guy.

Acting like a saint makes people around you feel inferior.



...I HAVE
TO SAY,
THOUGH.
YOU REALLY
DO SAVE
EVERYONE
YOU
POSSIBLY
CAN, DON'T
YOU?

PLUS,
YOU'RE
PART-
VAMPIRE,
RIGHT?

IT'S
LIKE
YOU'RE
SOME
KIND OF
DARK
HERO
OUT OF A
MANGA
OR
ANIME.



...



it's not like
I can look the
other way or
pretend not
to know.

But what
am I supposed
to do in the
first place?
Once I find
out about
those kinds
of things,

You know, Araragi...

About aberrations—
about Shinobu,
too...
All of it.

Maybe it
would've
been better
if you'd
forgotten
about it all.

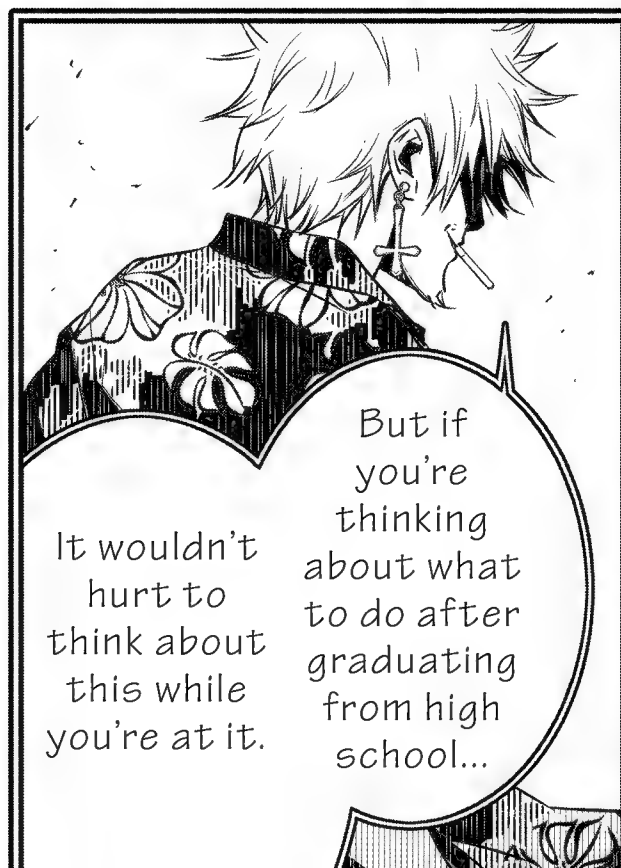


If I disappear,
you're going to
have to look
after her all on
your own, you
know.

She isn't
human,
okay?

That's
something
you always
gotta
keep in
mind.

Shi-
nobu?



But if
you're
thinking
about what
to do after
graduating
from high
school...
It wouldn't
hurt to
think about
this while
you're at it.



But...we've
gotten to
know each
other so well.
I'm not just
gonna up and
vanish one
day without
even saying
goodbye.

Ha haa!
Was
that a
mean
thing to
say?

I...

...

and
you'll go
back to
being
a full-
fledged
human.

All you
have to
do is
abandon
Shinobu
and
forget
about her,

If ever in
your life
you feel
like it,
Araragi...

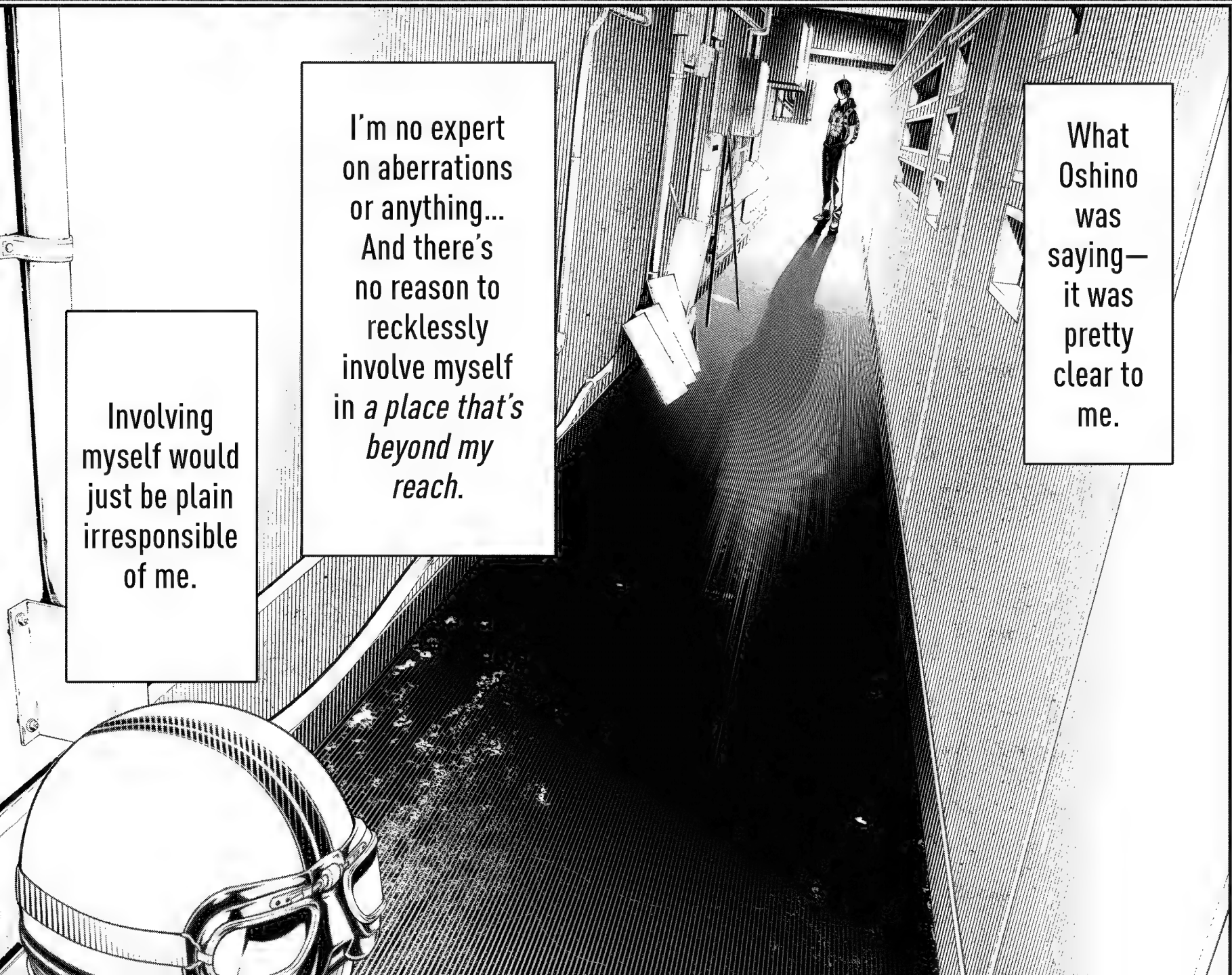


Personally...
I hope you don't
forget that.

Involving
myself would
just be plain
irresponsible
of me.

I'm no expert
on aberrations
or anything...
And there's
no reason to
recklessly
involve myself
in *a place that's
beyond my
reach.*

What
Oshino
was
saying—
it was
pretty
clear to
me.

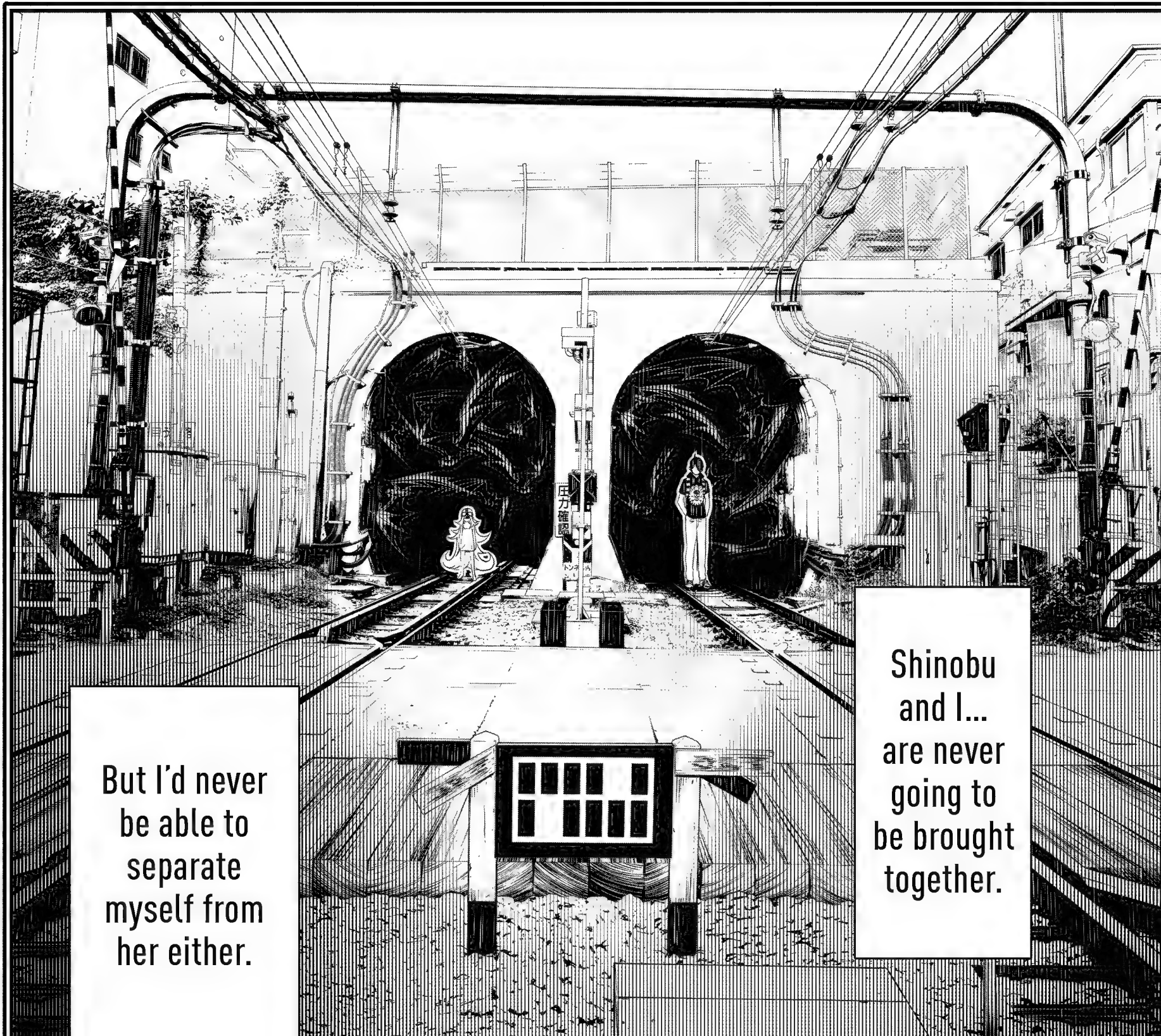




But

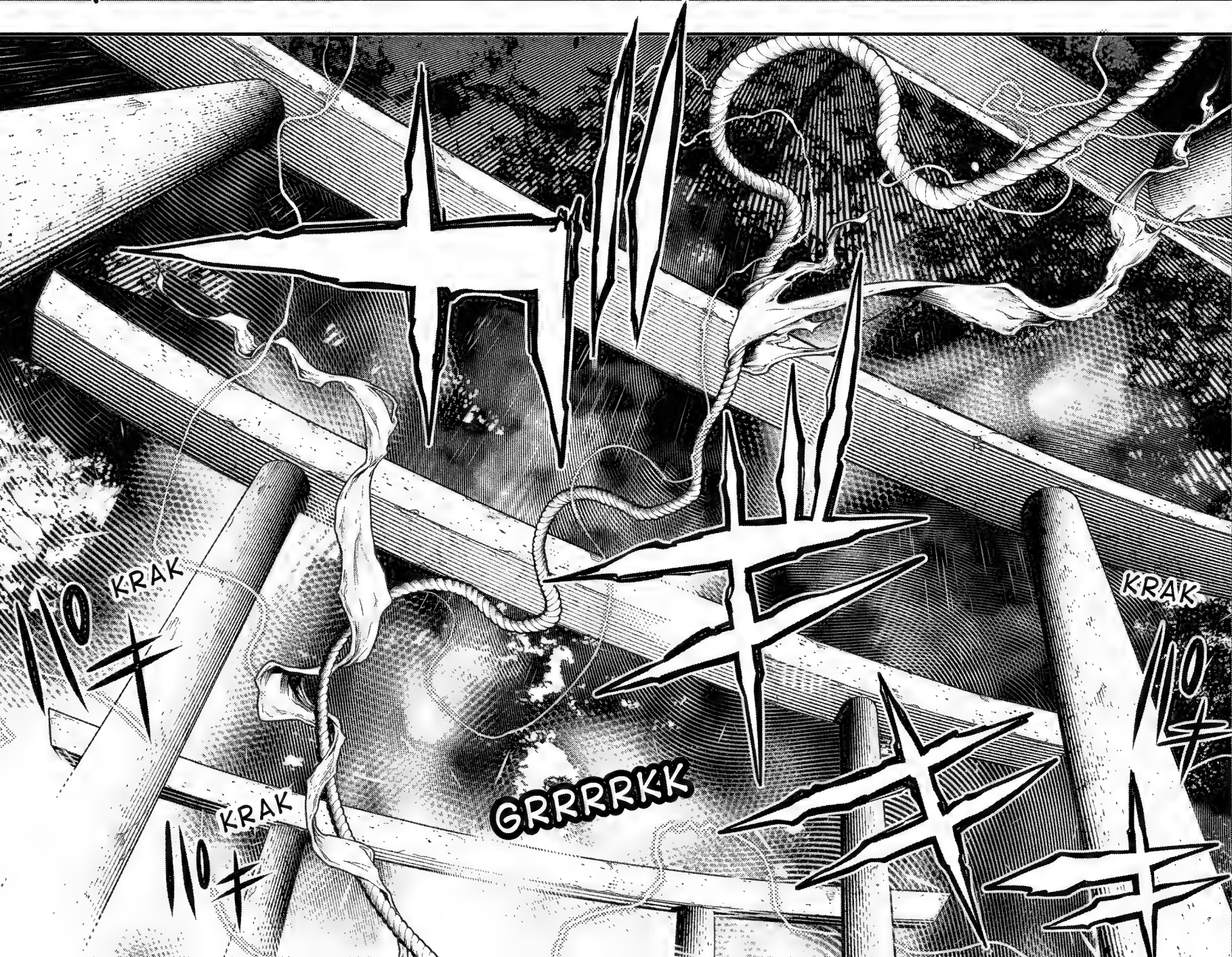
I...

...just
can't
forget
about
her.



But I'd never
be able to
separate
myself from
her either.

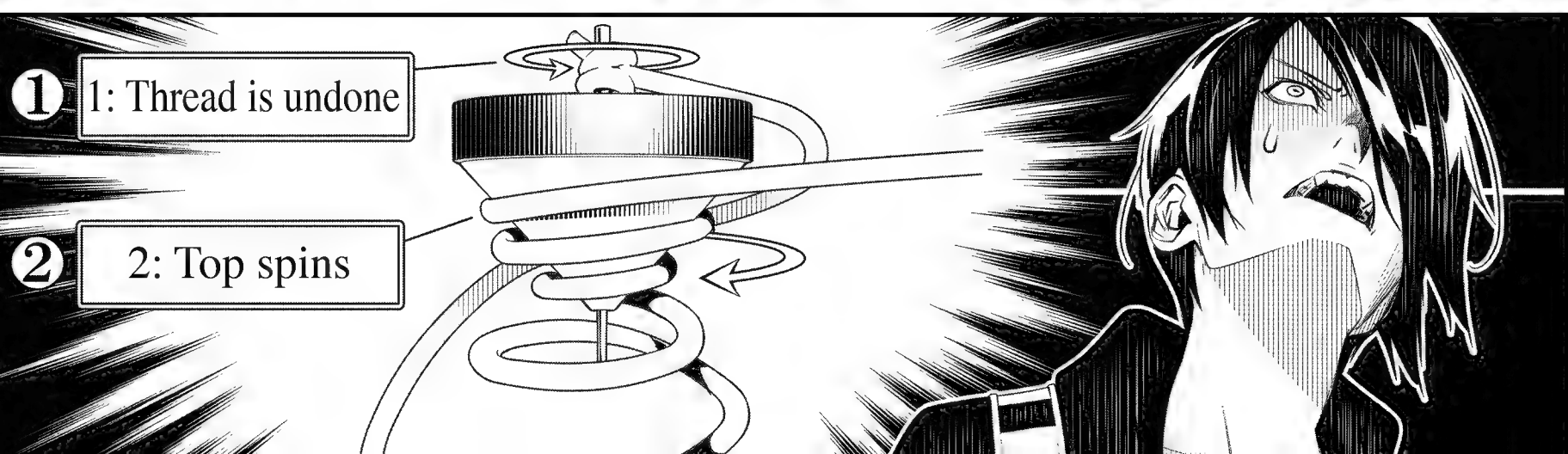
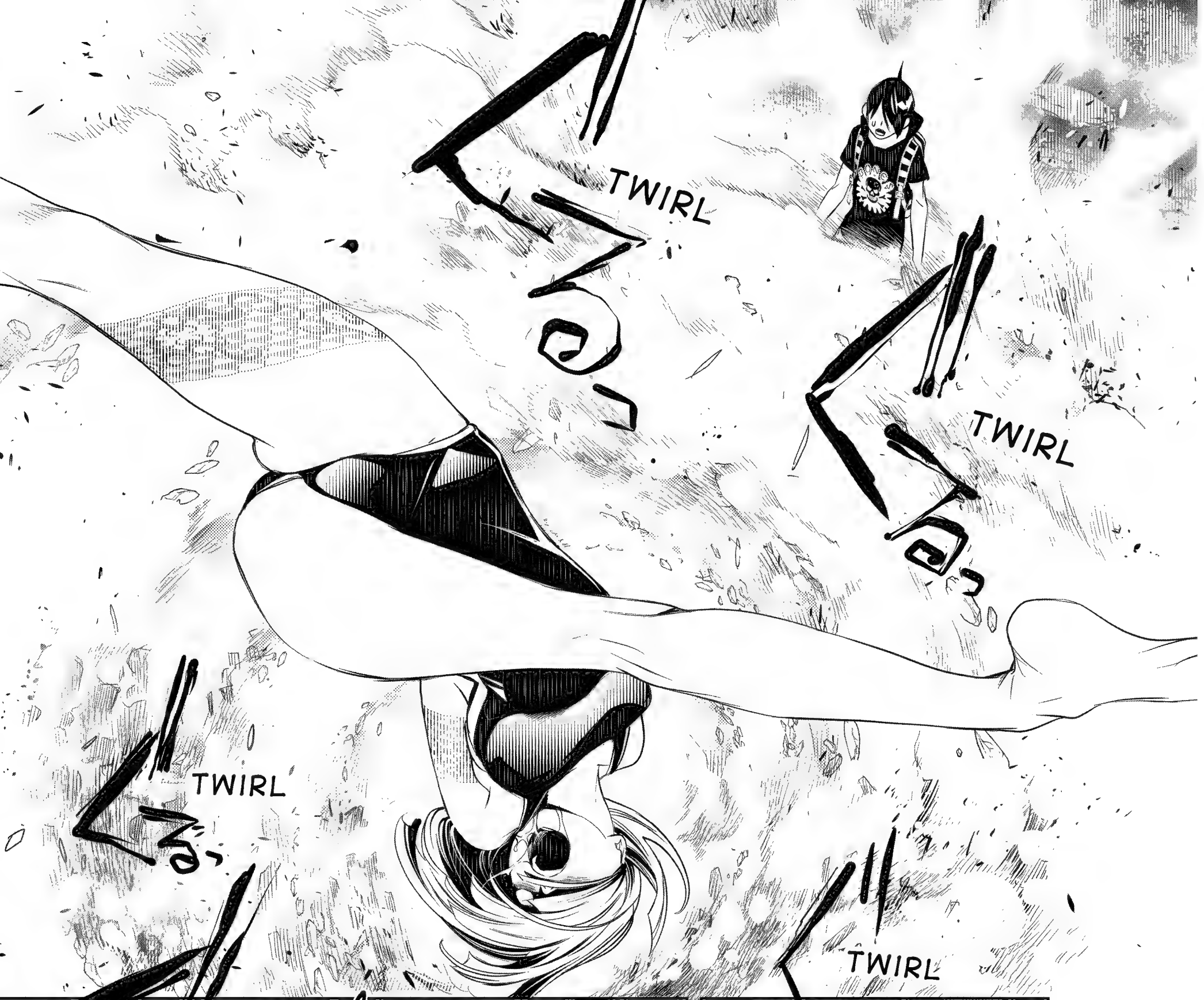
Shinobu
and I...
are never
going to
be brought
together.





SEN-
GOKU
?!!







Did ...

Did it fail?!

Did the purification ritual fail...and now it's running amok?!

No...

This ritual isn't supposed to be some risky stunt!!

This wasn't about brute force.

ZSSH

Dammit! Why?! I don't understand!

This... shouldn't be happening ...!

It's a request ...!

This is a negotiation with an aberration...

GSST

In fact, until just seconds ago,

it was going so well—all until we were half-way in...!!

GSST

GSST

Half...
way...?

...

Oh.

...only
half of it.

But
...

Half of it
disappeared.
That actually
happened...

Dam-
mit!!

If only I'd
noticed
earlier...!!

That's it...!
That's
what's
happening!!

Why am
I always
such an
idiot?!

What's
wrong,
my
senior
Araragi
?!

But...
what
if that
amulet
only had
enough
strength
to deal
with one
serpent?

The
amulet
Oshino
gave
me *did*
work.

The
snake
had gone
away—
*to some-
where.*

If only we
could see...

There were
plenty of
hints...

No.

...we'd have
gotten it
right away,
no need for
thinking.

SLITHER

SLITHER

SLITHER

SLITHER



The Jagirinawa.

There's not just one of them.



...were
two!!

There
...

Continued in Volume 8

BAKEMONOGATARI 8

The truth behind the Jagirinawa entwined around Nadeko is discovered.

A direct confrontation with this aberration has become unavoidable.

A cruel fate lies ahead. How will Koyomi respond?

The story of Nadeko Snake intensifies.

COMING APRIL 2021!



BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 7

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New
York.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781636990668

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Editing: Ajani Oloye
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Production: Grace Lu
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